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Saipan Tribune

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11 DAYS TO GO BEFORE ELECTION DAY

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
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24 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Homestretch
The presidential race tightened after the final debate, with John McCain gaining among whites and poor people.

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Crownless
Miss Teen Louisiana lost her crown 11 days early after being arrested.

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Association endorses Kilili for delegate. **PAGE 2**

Federal jury convicts man of stealing AMP lights. **PAGE 5**

STEFAN SEBASTIAN

The popular grocery store Carmen Safeway will close permanently Nov. 15 and is now selling off its inventory.

Carmen Safeway to close

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The most recent casualty of Saipan's economic downturn is the popular grocery store Carmen Safeway, now poised to close in less than a month due to a decline in customers and rising operational costs.

At Carmen Safeway's Chalan Kanoa store Thursday, staff were preparing for a sale—20 percent off on the store's entire stock—in a bid to sell off its inventory. General manager Eli Maravilla said the closure, slated for Nov. 15, comes as the store is seeing fewer customers

See CARMEN on Page 4

As expected, House junks Senate-crafted budget bill

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palacios

As expected, the House unanimously voted yesterday to reject the Senate-passed budget due to the cost-cutting provisions included in the bill.

After the vote, Speaker Arnold I. Palacios appointed four House members to confer with the Senate and reconcile the differences of the two chambers over the budget. The House members are Representatives Victor Hocog, Ray Yumul, Justo Quitugua, and Edwin Aldan.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes is expected to officially

See AS EXPECTED on Page 4

DEA looking into frisking incident

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has assured the CNMI government that it is looking into the alleged mistreatment of 147 Chinese tourists, who were made to go through a drug search upon arriving at Saipan International Airport on Oct. 3.

Timothy J. Landrum, special

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ON ANTI-MONUMENT RESOLUTION

Man'amko say they were forced to sign

Non-signers told it doesn't matter because they are not 'local'

"I was so upset. I almost didn't finish my lunch. I am a U.S. citizen. I have all the right. I'm a U.S. voter."

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

RELATED NEWS
CNMI leaders reaffirm opposition to monument.
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Four Man'amko Advisory Council members are crying foul over a resolution passed stating their opposition to the proposed national marine monument.

The members—Terisita Sorroza, Christiana Michael, Sujan Muna and Meryalen Conrad—said they were told to sign the

See MAN'AMKO on Page 4

TATTOO FESTIVAL KRISTI EATON
Rico Kim tattoos Mark Tairsacan during the 2nd annual Saipan International Tatu & Arts Festival at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan yesterday. ***See story on Page 6.***

Local

CREAM endorses Kilili Sablan

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An organization made up of mostly Filipino-Americans in the Commonwealth yesterday announced its endorsement of Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan for congressional delegate.

The Coalition for Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Ethnic Minorities, or CREAM, says the group is impressed with Sablan's sincere stance and his focus on the economy.

CREAM claims to have 1,200 members who are registered to vote on Nov. 4, when the CNMI will elect its first-ever delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. CREAM's membership represents about 10 percent of the voters that will decide the historic election.

Sablan in an interview said he is "very happy" to gain CREAM's support. "I recognize them for taking an active part in this year's election and for their many contributions to our islands. I'm very pleased with their decision and I welcome their endorsement," he said.

Before making the endorsement, CREAM held a mock election within the group and invited to four top vote getters to a question-and-answer session. The candidates invited were John Oliver Gonzales, Pete A. Tenorio, Juan T. Lizama, and Sablan. Of the four, only Sablan showed up.

CREAM president Gus Loste said Sablan offered satisfactory responses to the questions asked him during the forum. "He didn't make any inflated promises. His answers were realistic, and not intended just to make people feel better," Loste said.

But while CREAM values Sablan's attendance, it is not the sole basis for the group's decision to endorse the candidate, Loste maintained. He said the group took another vote, and an overwhelming majority supported Sablan.

Most of the members of the coalition are Filipino-Americans and registered voters in the Northern Marianas. The group also includes people of other nationalities who have U.S. citizen children that are registered voters in the Commonwealth.

Loste said the group believes that the non-indigenous electors, if organized, can make a difference in future CNMI elections.

Deadline to apply for absentee voting

All registered voter who will be away from the Northern Marianas on Election Day need to apply to vote by absentee voting in order to receive a ballot on which they could cast their vote, according to the Commonwealth Election Commission.

The Commission said it would only send ballots to those who apply to vote by absentee voting.

Individuals who registered to vote from outside the CNMI and who will be away from the islands on Nov. 4 must still need to apply to vote by absentee voting in order to be provided a ballot that they could cast and return by mail to the Election Commission mailing address.

All requests to vote by absentee voting must be completed and submitted to the Commission by 4:30pm, Chamorro Standard Time, Oct. 25, 2008. Applications to vote by absentee voting may be downloaded and printed at http://www.votecnmi.gov.mp/downloads/absenteeballot.pdf and the application may be sent to the Commission by mail, facsimile, or scanned then emailed to the office.

For more information, call the Commission at 664-VOTE (8683) or by e-mail to cec@votecnmi.gov.mp or infor@votecnmi.gov.mp. ***(CEC)***

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Headstart, community groups share plans

The Headstart program met with several service providers yesterday to discuss programs and plans for future events.

This is the first meeting of the school year between the organizations. Meetings are held quarterly.

"We share about programs to be more knowledgeable. We review and see if there are areas we need to include," said Malua T. Peter, Family and Community Partnership coordinator.

Representatives from Medicaid; the Mayor's Office; the Nutrition Assistance Program; The Women, Infants, and Children program; Karidat Social Services; and the Department of Public Health were among the attendees.

"They've been very supportive. We're committed to helping Headstart," Peter said.

She said the representatives discussed the upcoming calendar of events, including the Week of the Young Child. It is usually held in April, but they are hoping to host it earlier this year, sometime before February, she said.

Transportation for clients was also discussed at the meeting. The group is looking at possibly applying for a grant from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to improve transportation for clients. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

Paying respects to a 'brother'

Many didn't even know him but they turned out for a candlelight vigil early yesterday morning for Staff Sgt. Julian Manglona because he was a "brother."

Cars lined Airport Road with the young and old holding lit candles as police officers led a hearse with the body of Manglona inside.

Manglona, who hailed from Tinian, collapsed during a 6-mile run as part of his training in Fort Hood, Texas, before deployment to Kuwait. He later died at a nearby hospital. He was 39.

"We're here to pay our respects. That's all I'm going to do," said Pfc. Roland Dowai, who along with other members of the U.S. Army's 302nd Quartermasters, stood on each side of the road as the hearse drove by. "If he's fighting for the same country as I am, he best well deserves this. We're brothers by heart."

Roxanne Pangelinan said she wanted to show her support. She did not know Manglona but has a family member who was in the same battalion.

"Even though we don't know [Manglona], we want to show support for our island," she said.

Delia Sablan said she remembers Manglona as a jolly guy. "I just loved that guy. My heard is, you know, for Julian. He's just a nice guy," said Sablan, who is a distant relative of Manglona's.

Sablan said she picked up Manglona from the airport and took him to his aunt's house after his last tour of duty in the Middle East.

His scheduled trip to Kuwait would have been his second in the region. Manglona left behind a wife, Brenda, and eight children. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

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MAN'AMKO

From Page 1

resolution without getting a chance to read it. They said they support the monument proposal.

Sorroza said she was handed the resolution while she was trying to eat lunch and was told to sign it.

"A lady came and said, 'this is from the governor. Sign. All you do is sign,'" said Sorroza, who ultimately did not sign the resolution.

The lady Sorroza was referring to was Rose Mondala, the federal program coordinator for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. Gov. Benigno Fitial, the Legislature and several mayors have stated their opposition to the monument.

Sorroza, a naturalized American, said she was then told it doesn't matter if she doesn't sign because she is not local.

"I was so upset. I almost didn't finish my lunch," she said. "I am a U.S. citizen. I have all the rights. I'm a U.S. voter."

And with eight members of the Council, Sorroza said, there were not enough signatures to pass the resolution.

Mondala said she could not speak for the Council but that the members of Chamorro descent—chairman Frank Reyes, vice chairman Carmen Taitano and Muña—all signed the resolution stating their opposition.

"The outsiders didn't sign it," Mondala said. "All the locals signed it."

Mondala then referred all questions to Fitial's office.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said he was not aware of any resolution.

"The Aging Center falls under the Executive Office, but we haven't done anything," he said, adding that the Office has not been in communication with the *man'amko*.

Muña, who did sign the resolution, said she was coerced into signing it so she could sit down.

Michael said she had a similar experience with Sorroza and Muña. After entering a room, she said she was not allowed to sit until she signed the resolution. When she refused to sign, she was told the governor would find out.

"But you have to say no," she said. "How can we sign if we don't know the reason?"

"Is it our resolution or somebody else's resolution?" she added. "We didn't write it."

Taitano, who did sign the resolution, said she is against the monument until officials explain what it's for.

"I don't want it," she said. "They don't tell us why it's going to be there. You have to explain what it's for."

Taitano said the monument would hurt the fishermen who use the waters to catch tuna.

"If they close that place no one can go there," she said. "That's where they get a lot of tuna."

Chairman Reyes was not available for comment because he had a family emergency.

Meanwhile, in a letter to White House Council on Environmental Quality chief James Connaughton, Fitial, House Speaker Arnold Palacios and Senate President Pete Reyes questioned the authenticity of the more than 5,000 signatures gathered by Friends of the Monument—a community organization founded by local people backing the proposal.

"We believe the list contains the names of foreign national workers who, pursuant to the recent federalization of our immigration, have short-term interests in the CNMI, and tourists who, frankly should not have a say in the governance of either the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or the United States of America. We feel there are many duplicate names and we question the integrity of the position."

CNMI *leaders reaffirm opposition to monument*

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

After meeting in talks with the Bush administration's leading environmental policy official earlier this week, political opposition to the White House's proposal to establish a national marine monument in the waters around the CNMI's northern islands remains firm, Gov. Benigno Fitial, Senate President Pete Reyes and House Speaker Arnold Palacios said in a letter Wednesday.

The letter, addressed to White House Council on Environmental Quality chief James Connaughton, says federal officials and environmentalists have rushed to see the proposed monument—which would place the waters around the islands of Maug, Asuncion and Uracus under heightened federal protection—created before the close of Bush's presidency without meaningful discussion with CNMI authorities.

When Bush established the Papahanumokuakea Marine Monument, in Hawaii, earlier in his term, the state had several years to decide its stance on the issue, the letter notes—a delay that was due to in-fighting among federal agencies. The CNMI, it adds, should have more time to weigh the plan and perhaps put it to a public vote. Talks under section 902 of the Covenant between the CNMI and the federal government, the letter notes, are a further option.

"Respectfully, we are nonplussed by the way this entire process has unfolded to date," it says before lambasting the Pew Charitable Trust, a non-profit organization, for its role in rallying support for the plan.

Moreover, the leaders write that in his meeting with Connaughton this week, it appeared that the Bush administration is determined to push ahead with the proposal whether or not the local government approves.

"Even though this was ostensibly the beginning of discussions, many present were left with the feeling that the result was pre-ordained and the discussion was more pretense than substance," the letter says.

The designation of a monument, it adds, would certainly block any future fishing and mining activity in the waters at issue and bar the CNMI's efforts to reverse a recent court decision that effectively placed near shore undersea resources under federal control.

For his part, Connaughton in a meeting with local lawmakers this week said the mineral and energy resources beneath the waters of the proposed monument are aligned in such a way that extracting them could still be possible if the president's plan moves forward. At a public forum and later in a speech at a local hotel, he added that local people would continue to have access to the region after its designation as a monument, while fishing rules remain an open question.

However, existing environmental protections, the letter contends, are enough to safeguard the waters around the northern islands and most of the CNMI's political factions are in "near unanimity" when it comes to opposing the plan.

"We do believe that the establishment of the proposed monument seems likely to wrest control of access to these islands from the people of the CNMI, and transfer that control to those with little familiarity with the resources in question, the history of the islands, and the culture and traditions of their people," the letter says, adding later that local officials "will not be bullied, badgered or bought, and to be frank, an artificial deadline imposed on us will not be well received. Until and unless our governments can mutually agree on a proposal that fully addresses the concerns of the people of the CNMI, our answer is no, no, a thousand times no."

DEA

From Page 1

agent in charge of the DEA's Los Angeles Field Division, told Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in an e-mail yesterday that he had directed his staff to conduct "a complete and full review" of the incident.

Landrum also called for a continued partnership between the DEA and local law enforcers in combating narcotics in the Commonwealth. He made this appeal after Fitial, following the airport search incident, withdrew local customs and police officers from a DEA-CNMI task force.

Recalling his recent visit to the CNMI, Landrum said he was "extremely impressed with the true partnership that exists between all our law enforcement agencies and members within the community." He added, "I also know that we are having a positive impact in our communities and will continue to work with our partners in the fight against illegal drugs. Partnerships are a priority of mine and appreciate all the support your departments provide."

Fitial in a press conference yesterday said he is pleased that DEA is investigating the issue. "But I will be more satisfied when the review is complete," he said.

Landrum's e-mail came in response to the governor's call for an investigation into the Oct. 3 incident, where 147 of 187 arriving passengers on a Shanghai Airlines flight were subjected to intensive body searches at the Saipan airport. Tour operators report that agents corralled the passengers—all Chinese—into a small room and searched even the most private parts of their bodies, in addition to checking every piece of luggage they carried.

The DEA has said it was acting on a tip. Although the searches yielded no illegal drugs, some contraband items such as illegal plant and animal products were reportedly intercepted during the operation.

The Chinese tourists were upset by the episode, and some of them filed complaints with the Chinese government. The incident also made front-page news in China, including in the major cities of Beijing and Shanghai, where many of the CNMI's Chinese visitors come from.

The Chinese Consulate General in Los Angeles wrote the Marianas Visitors Authority to express concern about the alleged discrimination committed against Chinese tourists during the DEA-initiated operation.

The consulate, according to consul Yang Lianchun, "is worried about the unequal treatments which the Chinese nationals get in your district and hopes the routine administration of government does not influence the normal exchanges between the two countries and ensure the equal treatments to Chinese nationals there in an appropriate manner in the future."

SAIPAN ICE DONATION AMERICAN RED CROSS

Saipan Ice donates $1,500 to assist the American Red Cross NMI Chapter fulfill its mission of saving lives here in the CNMI. In picture are Jerry Facey; Danilo Agtarap, chief accountant; Viola Sablan; Tony Pelligrino, president of Saipan Ice; and John D. Guerrero.

CARMEN

From Page 1

and a recent increase in utility rates is cutting into its profits.

"People just don't have the money to shop like they once did," he said.

Carmen Safeway opened in 2005, when its owners bought the store from a Japanese company. In its first few years, Maravilla said, business was good at the store, but with a decline in tourism and businesses throughout the Commonwealth facing economic hardship, the store has struggled recently to stay open. The store currently employs 21 people, according to Maravilla, most of them hired from the local community.

After Carmen Safeway closes, he added, it will begin selling its fixtures and other equipment unless any potential buyers express interest in the store.

Carmen Safeway is the second major shop on Saipan to announce its closure this week after the only branch of Blockbuster Video shut its doors on Wednesday, also selling off its stock.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president James Arenovski said the stores were "two great companies that served the community well. It's hard to see them go."

Factors like "power costs, low sales and people leaving" the Commonwealth have affected many businesses but "now, other people will get those customers" who had shopped at them, he added.

AS EXPECTED

From Page 1

name Senators Maria Pangelinan, Joseph Mendiola, and Paul Manglona to the conference committee today.

During a session, the House members enumerated the issues they want the ad hoc legislative committee to address when it crafts a compromise budget bill.

On top of the list is whether to implement austerity measures such as the "austerity Fridays" and unpaid holidays proposed by the governor and adopted by the Senate. Hocog said the measures would place additional burden on the families already saddled with the high cost of living in the CNMI. Rep. Tina Sablan said that "austerity Fridays"—or the biweekly shutdown of government offices—is "fundamentally unfair" and breeds resentment among employees.

The budget for education, particularly for the Public School System and Northern Marianas College, needs particular attention, according to Rep. Ralph Torres. He said both agencies, as well as other critical services, should be funded fully.

For his part, Rep. Heinz Hofschneider called on the conference committee to look into the 90-day contracts given to many employees across the government.

The other issues raised include the funding for the governor's immigration federalization lawsuit, the ban on lawsuits within the CNMI government, and the Senate-proposed funding increase for each lawmaker.

The budget currently under deliberation is for the 2009 fiscal year, which covers the period from Oct. 1, 2008 to Sept. 30, 2009.

On Oct. 2, the House approved the original budget bill, appropriating $165.37 million in resources, including $156.7 million in projected government revenue, $5.17 million in Compact Impact aid, and $3.5 million in "unencumbered" funds from different accounts outside the general fund. Last week, the Senate passed a substitute bill to replace the House-approved version. The substitute includes a host of changes to the House's proposal.

Federal jury convicts man of stealing AMP lights

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A federal jury convicted yesterday an employee of the Commonwealth Health Center who was among three men accused of conspiring to steal portions of metal lighting units from the American Memorial Park.

Munson

The 12 jurors found Masaioshy Daikichi Sallem guilty of one count of conspiracy to commit the unauthorized sale of U.S. government property and one count of unauthorized sale of stolen U.S. government property.

The jurors began deliberations Wednesday afternoon. They reached the unanimous verdict yesterday morning.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson set Sallem's sentencing for Jan. 22, 2009, at 9am.

Munson denied assistant U.S. attorney Beverly McCallum's motion to remand Sallem back to the custody of the U.S. Marshal until the sentencing date.

Munson allowed the defendant to remain at liberty based on the same bail conditions as the court had previously imposed.

The judge warned Sallem, though, that if he breaks the bail conditions, he "better bring a toothbrush" because he would remand him to jail.

Sallem's court-appointed lawyer, Steven Pixley, told the media that the CNMI Supreme Court's recent ruling that Federated States of Micronesia citizens are deportable aliens if they are convicted of felonies made it difficult for his client to negotiate a plea.

He said Sallem has been here on Saipan for many years.

In an interview with the media, McCallum said the U.S. government looked into the case and ensured that they were charging all people that needed to be prosecuted.

"The government had to prove that there was an agreement between two or more people to perform an unauthorized sale of government property and that was done knowingly," McCallum said.

She said what was sold was a government property worth over a thousand dollars.

In count 2, McCallum said they had to prove that the defendant sold with knowledge that the property was stolen.

"I feel the jury brought back a just verdict," she said.

Sallem's and his co-defendants, Dominic Chipwelong and James Ochcha, are all Chuukese.

The three were accused of engaging in a conspiracy to steal portions of the metal lighting units from AMP and selling them to a recycling center in November 2007.

Chipwelong and Ochcha entered a guilty plea. Chipwelong was sentenced to 10 months in prison. Ochcha's sentencing is set for Oct. 27, 2008.

Businesses give to Red Cross

Three local businesses gave in a big way this week to the Red Cross, donating thousands to fund the charity's mission here on Saipan.

The largest donation came from First Hawaiian Bank, which gave $3,000 to support the Red Cross's annual fundraising dinner. Saipan Ice gave $1,500 to aid the organization's efforts to improve the health and public welfare of the CNMI's people and the Moylan's insurance firm gave $1,000 for the same.

"All these businesses are annual supporters of the Red Cross," said local Red Cross executive director John Hirsh. "Without their support, the NMI Chapter would not be able to operate and provide important training and support to families in need."

An average of 91 cents out of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs, according to the organization's Web site.

In September, the Red Cross launched the Campaign for Disaster Relief to aid survivors of natural disasters, with the goal of raising $100 million dollars. Six weeks later, the campaign had raised $50 million. ***(Stefan Sebastian)***

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Int'l tattoo festival gets underway

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Games Contest w/ in-house giveaway.

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mark Tairsacan had been planning to get a warrior tattoo since last year. Yesterday, as several onlookers watched, Tairscan became one of the first people to get inked at the 2nd annual Saipan International Tatu & Arts Festival yesterday.

Artists from around the world are taking part in the event, lasting through Saturday.

"I just turned 18, so now I want to go crazy," Caty Hiney said. "If you do it here you can come back every day and get another one."

She already has one tattoo on her lower stomach but wants to get a spider coming out of her neck, she said.

"I'm looking around today and I'll come back," she added.

Duane Frosburg said he will get at least one tattoo during the festival. Frosburg, who attended the event last year, said he's interested in learning more about the Japanese art.

Dragon Edong, the organizer of the festival, designed many of Frosburg's tattoos and now Frosburg said he wants to "mix it up a little bit."

The one complaint Frosburg had was the size of the ballroom where the festival is being held.

"I think they need a bigger place," he said. "The place should be a hell of a lot bigger."

Tattoo artist Martin Morrissey traveled from London to participate in the festival. When asked why he is taking part, he said, "Why not? I've never been here. I never heard of [Saipan]."

He said he tries to attend as many tattoo events as possible. "It's social," he said.

Artists from Hong Kong, France, Japan, the U.S. mainland, Thailand, and the Philippines are also in attendance. Edong said he can't predict how many people will be in attendance during the week, but expects a large turnout today and tomorrow.

The $10 entrance fee allows for a free drink and entertainment from the Walden Family. Children under 10 can get in free with a parent.

The festival is being held at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa through Sunday.

Court resets sentencing for ex-Marpac GM—again

The federal court has again postponed the sentencing of a former Marianas Pacific Distributors general manager who admitted to defrauding Marpac of $520,000.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson on Wednesday reset the sentencing of Joseph Vincent Santos to Oct. 28, Tuesday, at 11am, after the parties in the case filed a stipulation.

The sentencing was supposed to be held today, Friday. Under the stipulation, Santos' lawyer, Colin M. Thompson, and assistant U.S. attorney Beverly McCallum agreed to reschedule it to Oct. 28.

In approving the stipulation, Munson said the prosecution and the defense counsel have diligently worked to acquire all of the information that the court requested.

Munson said the requested information was collected from third parties, compiled and delivered to Thompson last week.

As a franchisee of Anheuser-Busch, MARPAC sells beer products to retail vendors on Saipan.

The U.S. government alleged that between January 2003 and April 2006, Santos made a total of $521,813.40 in unexplained cash deposits into four separate bank accounts.

The prosecution said in that period Santos "devised a scheme and artifice to defraud Marpac and for obtaining money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises."

In September 2007, Santos pleaded guilty to mail fraud.

The sentencing was originally set for Dec. 11, 2007, but has been reset eight times already.

Santos remains at liberty under the same terms and conditions as the court had previously set. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Sea surface temp a leading climate issue

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

APIA, Samoa—Although most people correlate climate change with rising sea levels, the first big effect of climate change to the Pacific will be a rise in sea surface temperature, affecting storms, droughts and coral ecosystems, a marine researcher said at the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable being held here.

Paul Anderson, a marine resource analyst, said projections show air temperature could rise 2 degrees Celsius to 6.4 degrees Celsius by 2100.

Anderson works for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, a regional organization based in Apia that is charged with protecting and managing the region's environment and natural resources.

"This warming is causing sea-level rise that will gradually inundate coastal areas and increase beach erosion and flooding from coastal storms, changes in precipitation patterns, increased risk of droughts and floods, threats to biodiversity, and a number of potential challenges for public health," he said.

Sea levels could rise by .35 to 1 meter in the next century, depending on the arctic glacial stability, Anderson said. This will cause more frequent and more intense storms, one of the first visible effects of climate change.

Coral reefs are also being affected by the changing climate. Seventy-five percent of the world's reefs are found in the Indo-Pacific region, but the coal cover has been cut in half since 1980 from 42 percent to 22 percent.

"If modeling projections are even close to valid, corals and reefs will be severely tested by the end of the century, possibly sooner," Anderson said.

Reefs will become bleached when they get too hot and the algae move out, he said. Also, they can be damaged by natural events like hurricanes, cyclones and tsunamis. Dissolving carbon dioxide in the seawater will decrease pH levels, slowing coral growth rates.

Govt seeks deportation of man convicted of arson

The CNMI government wants a man who has been convicted of burning a karaoke bar in western Garapan in 2006 to be deported from the islands.

The Superior Court has ordered YanJie Si to appear in court yesterday and explain why he should not be deported.

Immigration investigator Nicolas Reyes stated in court papers that Si, a Chinese, was issued a nonresident worker's entry permit in 2006 that expired in May 2008.

Reyes said that on Sept. 24, 2008, Immigration presented information indicating that the respondent has been convicted of a felony. The respondent had pleaded guilty to arson in September 2007 and was sentenced to 12 months in prison. A felony conviction is ground for deportation.

Reyes said that Border Management System records indicate that Si entered the CNMI on Sept. 4, 2008. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 24, 2000

Deliberation on Cabrera corruption case begins

Jury deliberation began late yesterday on former Finance Sec. Antonio R. Cabrera after federal prosecutors wound up its corruption case and the defense decided not to present evidence or witnesses in the continuation of the trial in the U.S. District Court. Three government witnesses, including Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen and Public Auditor Leo L. LaMotte, testified at the last day of the trial, buttressing the prosecution's charges of theft, misspending of public funds and bribery against the ex-Cabinet official.

CPA to join U.S.-Japan talks on open skies pact

The Commonwealth Ports Authority intends to participate in a scheduled discussion on open skies agreement between the United States and Japan governments, in fresh efforts to improve Saipan's access to the North Asian country. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas has sought the assistance of Airports Council International-North America on how the agency can actively and effectively participate in the consultation meetings slated next month in Tokyo, Japan.

October 24, 2001

NMI's anti-anthrax drive gains ground

With the anthrax scare sprouting in different parts of the globe, the US Department of Justice has assured the Commonwealth with federal money to upgrade its capability to combat bioterrorism. This was disclosed by Dr. Richard Brostrom, medical director of the Department of Public Health, who attended the meeting in Capitol Hill.

Crisis drowning hotels in deep losses

Hotel operators warned that the worsening economic situation in the CNMI may force them to cease operations unless visitor arrivals statistics pick up in three months. In order to ward off deeper losses, a big number of major hotels in the CNMI have already started taking painful cuts in operations, which translated to manpower reduction and the closure of some facilities during idle hours.

October 24, 2002

FAA takes over airport security

The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport will be fully federalized on Oct. 28, when newly appointed federal security director for Saipan airport John T. Peoples takes over the helm of security screening operations at the lobby and checkpoint areas of the airport. Roll-out will begin on midnight of October 28, when federal agents and newly-hired screening officers take charge of the security measures at the airport-almost a year after the initial plan to federalize all airports across the United States.

National Guard plan inches forward

The Legislature is close to finalizing a joint resolution expressing the House and the Senate's unified stance on the need for the CNMI's own National Guard, Rep. Martin A. Ada disclosed yesterday. Ada, the chair of the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations, said he is working closely with his Senate counterpart in ironing out the resolution--a major step in the Commonwealth's bid to set up a state militia.

October 24, 2003

US report cites drug threats in NMI

The increasing availability of crystal methamphetamine and marijuana on the islands, coupled with large intelligence gaps on the local illegal drug situation, make for a significant threat to the Commonwealth, according to a new drug threat assessment report by the National Drug Intelligence Center. The report, called "Northern Mariana Islands Drug Threat Assessment" published this month, also says that organized Asian crime syndicates engaged in drug distribution and money laundering have penetrated the CNMI and are exacerbating the situation by allowing them easy access to underground banking systems.

Sugar King's son arrives on Saipan

The CNMI Museum of History and Culture welcomed to Saipan the son and grandson of Sugar King Matsue Haruji, who arrived yesterday to present the Matsue Documents Memory Album in a ceremony slated today. CNMI Museum of History and Culture chair Herman Guerrero, Friends of the Museum officer Carmen Gaskin, Ports Authority Board Chair Jose Lifoifoi and police commissioner Edward Camacho led the reception party for Matsue Hirotsugu, son of Haruji, and Keiichiro Saeki, president of the Sugar King Foundation.

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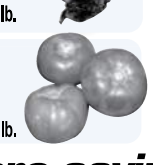

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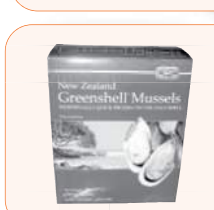

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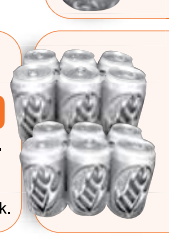

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Zimbabwe's bitter end

When Zimbabwean strongman Robert Mugabe signed a deal to share power with opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai last month, we were skeptical that it would end the country's crisis. At best, we hoped, it would stop Mr. Mugabe's murderous campaign against opposition activists and permit international relief agencies to deliver food to the starving.

As it turns out, even those modest gains have not been realized. Violent attacks on the opposition continue, and aid groups have been hamstrung by the freezing of their bank accounts. Desperate Zimbabweans, including a growing number of children, continue to pour out of the country as refugees. Inside, the economy has utterly collapsed: Inflation was calculated at 231 million percent early this month and was headed toward the billions. The United Nations is guessing that 5 million of Zimbabwe's remaining 9 million residents will soon need food handouts to avoid mass starvation.

Still, the 84-year-old Mr. Mugabe refuses to yield even the share of power he promised to give up—and African leaders continue to tolerate and enable him. Though he promised to give up half the ministries to the opposition in a new government, Mr. Mugabe unilaterally named his own slate to all of the most important cabinet positions, including the ministries of defense and home affairs, which govern the army and police. He has left only the finance ministry for Mr. Tsvangirai—and that's because he expects the opposition to persuade Western governments to resume aid to the country and thus prevent the collapse of his regime. Mr. Tsvangirai has reduced his demands to one: that the opposition control home affairs and the police, which might allow it to curtail political violence. Mr. Mugabe refused, causing the breakdown of the latest mediation effort by former South African President Thabo Mbeki.

Mr. Mbeki is part of the problem; he has been sympathetic all along to Mr. Mugabe's attempt to remain in power despite his defeat in an election in March. The 14-member Southern African Development Community, which appointed Mr. Mbeki, is now trying to mediate through a six-country committee. But it would be unwise for Mr. Tsvangirai, who refused to attend the first day of the talks, to compromise further—or for aid donors to fund a facade. It's not likely that Mr. Mugabe's regime can survive much longer in a country that has ceased to function. Unless he is willing to peacefully cede power, neither African leaders nor Western donors should take further action to prop him up.

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Saipan and everywhere: Four essential books

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

The economic discourse in the CNMI has always run at two levels. Publicly, it's often the same bureaucratic stuff you'd hear in the underdeveloped world, as the patronage players and their feckless courtiers talk the same, self-aggrandizing gibberish. There is no valid economic discourse in this context, only local politics, which is the exclusive point of reference for so many people.

Fortunately for the CNMI, however, its Asian crossroads status, and the residual momentum from its economic glory days, plus a local inventory of business-minded folks, has created an invisible network of truly capable people. They're not on soapboxes selling schemes and scams, or venting their spleens in righteous spasms, so they're largely invisible. They are the doers, not the talkers, and they're doing remarkably exciting projects on both sides of the Pacific. And, these same folks are remarkably worried these days; Saipan is a given, but they recognize that the U.S. economy, and its sprawling credit and securities markets, is probably about to take a one-way plunge into the abyss. This is no mere cycle, this is the capitulation of the U.S. economy.

So today, we will take the high road of discourse. Well, as high as you can get when you slum in my column here.

Based on the requests from a few folks over the past week, I will recommend four different books that are related to economics, since I think they provide the best, non-technical way to understand what the future holds for the U.S. sphere, which has worldwide implications. Whether you're in Saipan, or anywhere else in the world, you'll be interested in these books:

1 Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy

Penned by Joseph A. Schumpeter, an economist, this work, in the context of democracy, poses the following question: "Can capitalism survive?"

The answer? "No."

Schumpeter shows how a free society, and the free markets it allows, creates the soil in which entrepreneurs thrive and create wealth. As a growing economy becomes richer, more bureaucratic, and more institutional, an entire class of people, who have lived off the fat of the free economy, but who didn't really produce the wealth, turn hostile to its underpinnings of freedom, and salt the soil with socialism. That's my off the cuff summary; better summaries have surely been written.

2 The Road to Serfdom

The author, F.A. Hayek, was a co-winner of a Nobel Memorial Prize in economics. He was also a professor at the University of Chicago, which is pretty much the modern center of the economics world. This book is easier to read than Schumpeter's above-mentioned work, and the two cover roughly (roughly, I say) the same ground, and you can't go wrong with it.

3 Fooled by Randomness: The Hidden Role of Chance in Life and in the Markets

If you, like me, wonder at the abject gullibility of the small "investors" who start complaining when they figure out who the rubes are (they need a mirror for that), or you laugh at the mooks who say "the markets have to bounce back," then you'll love this work. Heck, you'll love it no matter what. The author, Nassim Nicholas Taleb, is a mathematician and financial speculation guru. He's got rock star status in my circle of friends. Ignore him at your peril. (Funny thing, I got an e-mail an hour ago saying that Taleb is now predicting a dire future for the U.S. economy; I haven't bothered to investigate that further, but I will: When Taleb speaks, I listen.)

4 The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements

In contrast to the three above authors, all of whom hold Ph.D's in technical subjects, Eric Hoffer has no such fancy credentials. He was salt of the earth, working as a migrant laborer and longshoreman. He was entirely self-educated, a really smart guy, and a great writer. In this, his most famous work, he outlines the mentality of people and societies that turn away from thinking for themselves, and get swept up in mass movements. How does this apply to economics? It provides a good insight in to the minds of the frustrated, the morally weak, and the unaccomplished, and how their dark urges can manifest. Human behavior is the basis for economics, so it's important to have an insight into mass psychology, and Hoffer really has it pegged.

As far as I know, all of these books are still in print, and are available in affordable paperback editions.

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What's the possibility of bond financing for the Fund?

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is a forensic economist, historian, and military cartographer.

I understand the NMI government is considering the possibility of floating a pension obligation bond for the Retirement Fund.

Generally there are two types of bonds issued to raise funds for a community. Revenue bonds are normally issued by a municipality or other government entity that is legally empowered to take on public indebtedness usually for the purpose of financing a specific public works project and supported by the revenues generated from the project. This type is financing is also referred to as a municipal bond.

Another type of method to raise money for a government is the general obligation bond. This bond is secured by the taxing and borrowing power of the government entity that issues them.

All bonds are rated by evaluating the possibility of default by a bond issuer (in this case the NMI government). The ratings are based on an analysis of the issuer's (the government) financial condition and revenue generating potential to retire the bond. Bond rating services are provided by such rating agencies as Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service. Bond ratings start at AAA (being the highest investment quality) and usually end at D (in payment default).

In terms of issuing a pension obligation bond, the Retirement Fund's ability to generate money is primarily dependent upon three sources: (1) The NMI central government in the form of employee participation through continued "voluntary" payroll deduction in what remains of the defined benefit program;

(2) The government's employer contribution which is now millions of dollars in arrears as a result of the government's failure to honor its contractual obligation to its loyal employees;

(3) Since 1994, Public Law 8-31 has required the government to remit to the Fund 20 percent of the hotel occupancy tax and 30 percent of the container tax. The government has not adhered to this law and legally owes the Fund from these sources. This is not a good sign if there is any hope to have the last two sources to also support a bond repayment guarantee. Indeed, the NMI central government has been in violation of 1 CMC 2553 for failure to remit statutorily required employer contributions.

For those government employees now participating in their own volunteer savings plan—and for all new employees who follow in the future—these people will be contributing to their own retirement in the new NMI government encouraged 401K and other IRA contributions and would be insignificant in generating revenue to service bond indebtedness. For all intents and purposes, they have been removed from any revenue generating potential necessary to meet the interest and principal payments required for bond finance.

For all those employee members of the new defined contribution plan, the only amount the government contributes is 4 cents on the dollar of the total of each employee's individual voluntary 401K or IRA savings—hardly a significant amount provided by the government. That paltry amount barely compensates for inflationary loss in purchasing power.

Since the inception of the new defined contribution plan—which in my judgment has done great damage to the Fund's investment portfolio—there have been no new members participating since January 2007. Since there is no new injection of money being contributed by new employees entering government service, it follows that as the future unfolds (particularly as relates to bond maturity) there will be an ever decreasing number of employees contributing to the benefit plan. This will result from "cash-outs", attrition, etc.

For the past several years the Executive Branch of the Commonwealth government has consistently and intentionally neglected to adhere to 1CMC, Div. 8, Chapter 4, Section 8342 and 1 CMC, Div. 8, Chapter 7, Section 8371 (a) thru (f) as related to its required employer contributions and other payments to the Fund.

The central government hasn't even adhered to its MOU agreements to pay into the Fund at least half a million dollars every two weeks. Surely, the above will be a negative factor in the bond rating process, not to mention the current general economic slowdown.

I don't know what the NMI's bond rating is but I suspect it is not the best. Particularly in view that the central government has a rather poor track record in meeting its financial obligations as relate to the very revenue source it presumably would obligate to satisfy its bond indebtedness.

Editor's note: The above essay is only one of a series of articles expressing the author's concern over the long-term financial security of NMI retirees, their widows and widowers. Other articles may be examined in the Saipan Tribune *Archives by indicating "Retirement Fund" in the search bar.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Along the Paseo de Marianas

It is a classic story, the one about the beautiful woman and the elderly moneyed man in a hotel lobby, the elder, enchanted by the lady's bearing, asks: "For a million dollars, will you go to my room with me?" Without pausing, the woman answers, "Yes, of course." The elderly gentleman hands her a hundred dollar bill and says, "Let's go." Red-faced and evidently embarrassed, the young lady thunders, "And what kind of a woman do you think I am?" The man answers, "We've already established that. We are now haggling over the price."

Somehow, upon reading the news item in Wednesday's *Saipan Tribune,* where it was reported that a Carolinian Affairs Office resolution released Tuesday, "contends that people of indigenous descent are the rightful owners of the waters at issue and calls on the federal government to 'compensate' people of indigenous descent for any natural resources it uses for conservation purposes," I got the sense that our local officials have placed themselves in the same role as the proverbial lady in the above story. Have our coffers gotten so desperate that now our officials are plying their roles at the level of our fair ladies-of-the-night along the Paseo de Marianas?

The report does add that the officials of the CAO were simply supporting the "Paramount High Chief's" efforts to oppose the creation of the monument. In other words, they are being politically correct in the local sense. In a previous news article, it was reported that the High Chief, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, "continues to insist that the marine monument proposal should not be hastily forced upon the people of the CNMI against the wishes of the democratically elected local government."

One notices how carefully the governor crafts his words. He claims that the wishes of the democratically elected government are not being recognized. He does not claim that the consent of the democratically active residents and citizens is being ignored. Then, as has been the practice that when in crisis we look for someone to blame, the press release concluded that "the governor expressed concern that well-financed special interest groups may be forcing these severe restrictions on the CNMI without the consent of the elected government or the majority of residents." So now, supporters of the monument proposals are instruments in the coercive and devious intents of special interest groups.

Whatever happened to weighing the merits of the proposal—ecologically, politically, economically and culturally? Let's take a quick look.

Ecologically, this proposal stands in stark contrast to the federal administration's eight-year denial that global climate warming was occurring. The confessional stance, not to mention the plea for atonement alone, for the religious folks of the Marianas, should be sufficient to back the measure, if only for the Marianas, on behalf of the people of the planet, be the instrument of cosmic atonement!

But the groundswell of local support makes the proposal an expression of grassroots' political wisdom and consent. Of course, the "representative" orientation of our political structure, which insists that the oligarchic domain of the elected officials prevail as an expression of the democratic will, has become so grossly irrelevant and unworkable in recent years that it is no longer a sign of disrespect to question the decisions of the elected officials. In fact, it has become a matter of duty and obligation, a patriotic mark of social responsibility, not only to scrutinize everything, but more importantly, to participate in the political process, even if that means being active in the legislature of the street.

What is culturally widespread is the sense of entitlement that permeates every layer of contemporary island culture abetted by Uncle Sam's history of benign neglect. It is often the case that when teachers ask their students to do something, they most invariably will ask, "What will I get in return?"

The economics of the proposal is also an area of constant denial. As has been said many times by proponents of the proposal, fishes do not recognize boundaries but they will thrive in areas where the nearshores are conserved and the coral reefs are preserved. When the fish do move out of the protected boundaries, they constitute a healthy catch for fisheries. The control of the area for eco-tourism is also a plus. The experience of Palau with the dolphins, and Hawaii with the whales is worth emulating. As for mining, it has not been shown that what is available around the three islands in question is not available elsewhere. And even if that were the case, the White House spokesman on island, as well as the proponents themselves, have all stated that the limits are negotiable, the possibilities are priceless.

Many claims in the name of culture have been shamelessly made in the current discourse. Frank Agulto's blood pressure will go up if I remind us what Magellan had called these islands and its indigenes. And we will not visit that characterization, although the evidence points to more than a negligible absence of its practice. In a time when government have universally adopted a borrow-and-spend habit, which the world is now dearly paying for, we did not borrow our children's future; we have stolen their inheritance.

When I visited Saipan in 1990, the lagoon was not quite algae-decimated yet, and claims that the culture is traditionally environment-friendly taxes credulity in its current practices. Nor do the body movements of Tahiti, the Maoris, and the natives of Hawai'i constituent of Mariana culture. That we appropriate them is fine. But they are no longer the only practices that we can call our own. Besides, there is wealth in the traditions of the *taotao tano* and the *taotao tasi* that still remains to be appropriated as there are practices that are best to be deconstructed if not totally abandoned. We shall make responsible choices, not blind adulation of worn-out clichés. One of those choices in enshrined in the Commonwealth Constitution, the conservation and preservation of the physicality of the three northern most islands in the Mariana chain. If anything, the proposal intends to strengthen that resolve.

What is culturally widespread is the sense of entitlement that permeates every layer of contemporary island culture abetted by Uncle Sam's history of benign neglect. It is often the case that when teachers ask their students to do something, they most invariably will ask, "What will I get in return?" The Pavlovian patterns of reward and punishment, so prevalent in what passes for pedagogical discipline in our schools, have since become a feature of our education. Put an overlay of hierarchical chain of command with military overtones and you have a situation of the upper crust charitably providing tables and chairs during novenas and family picnics, and those at the bottom tiers honing their skills on how to best extend one's hand for the dole without losing one's sense of self-respect. Or, finding ways to circumvent the rules imposed from the top that seems to have zealous application to the masses but exceptions to the privileged few.

Thus, it is no surprise that our CAO now wants to be compensated. But let us be clear. Those who cry loudest, claiming that their prerogatives were ignored if not violated, and whose integrity and self-interest are allegedly taken for granted, and might be tempted to take the high road and protest: "Who do you think we are?," we might be forgiven if the retort would be simple: "We've already established that, we are now just haggling over the price!"

We are a tolerant people. We've looked the other way as former sewers of attires have exchanged their working clothes to paltry pieces of pulchritudinous enticements. We will be tolerant if the CAO and other representatives of local governance deign to join their ranks. After all, in an island far from the maddening crowd of great delusions and illusions, we could use some local entertainment.

Jaime Vergara
via e-mail

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

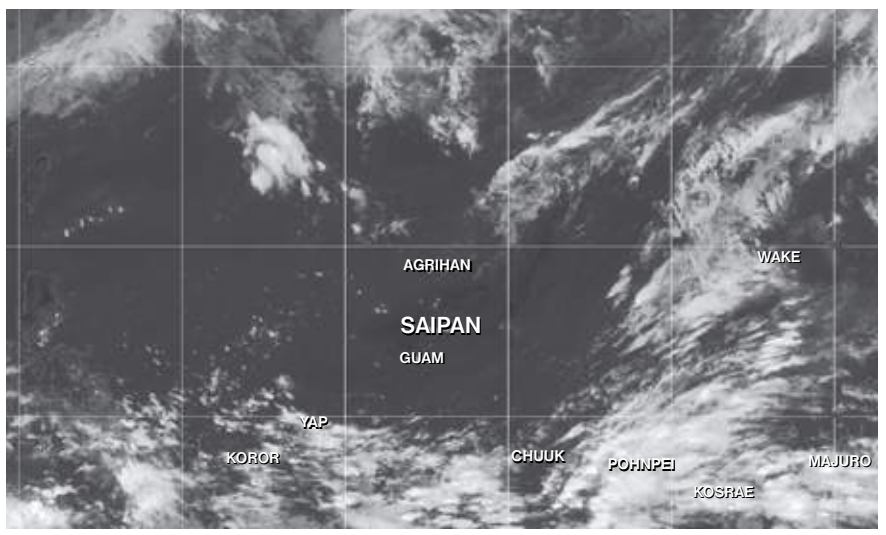
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼79
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼77
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼78
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲66	▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲54	▼36
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼75
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲82	▼73
London	Showers	▲58	▼41
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲72	▼55
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼47
Osaka	Rain	▲72	▼52
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼43
Pusan	Sunny	▲63	▼40
Rome	Rain	▲69	▼55
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼42
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼52
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲54	▼41
Tokyo	Rain	▲72	▼63
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼51

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak cold front extends southwestward from 25N155E to 22N145E then continues northwestward as a warm front to beyond 25N at 135E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within 100 miles of the cold front between 148E and 155E and within 100 miles of the warm front between 135E and 143E. Strong converging trade-winds and several embedded surface troughs are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Yap and Koror within an area bounded by a line from 9N138E to 7N130E to EQ130E to EQ135E to 3N150E to 7N150E back to 9N138E and over Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within an area bounded by a line from 12N167E to 5N150E to 3N150E to 2N160E to 4N160E to 4N180 to 10N180 back to 12N167E. An upper-level trough extends northeastward from an upper-level low centered near 10N140E to 22N157E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms can be found west of Wake Island within an area bounded by a line from 25N165E to 25N160E to 13N156E to 17N165E back to 25N165E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:04AM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
9:58AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
4:54PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:10PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:11AM	5:52 PM
Saturday	6:11AM	5:51 PM
Sunday	6:11AM	5:51 PM
Monday	6:11AM	5:51 PM
Tuesday	6:12AM	5:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:54AM	2:38PM
Saturday	2:47AM	3:16PM
Sunday	3:38AM	3:53PM
Monday	4:27AM	4:29PM
Tuesday	5:17AM	5:07PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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New rules of engagement for the marine monument proposal

This is my first time to write a letter to the editor about the proposed marine monument. For the record, I have received no money to write this letter, but I will not rule it out. Let the bidding begin at $500!

Joking aside, there are some legitimate concerns that need to be addressed regarding the marine monument. I have seen oft-repeated questions and comments that make me think I am suffering from severe bouts of *deja vu*. It is possible that there may be too much information regarding the marine monument. Oftentimes, when there is an overabundance of information on a certain topic, people grow weary of it and skip right over it (kind of like my letters to the editor). Perhaps that is why the same questions and comments seem to be repeated and why there appears to be a great deal of misunderstanding on both sides.

With all the personal attacks coming from both sides, I think we should set up some basic rules of engagement. Here are a few that I have come up with in an effort to create intelligent debate:

Accept that this isn't a battle between good versus evil. The proposed monument is a proposal, and many have taken a stand. This is a good thing! We are not battling corruption or declaring war on terrorists. What we need to accept is that many people have taken opposing sides, and neither side stands for good or evil. It is simply a position, and whether or not their position holds merit should be decided through debating each other's position.

***Fanekungok* (Listen).** Both sides need to be heard. It is a democracy at its finest hour when people are speaking out on issues. But we need to realize that we cannot engage in an intelligent debate if we fail to listen to what our opponent is saying. State your position and support it, and then listen attentively and respectfully to the opposing side's response. And then, while still listening, formulate a response to try to refute what was said, respectfully of course. This can definitely stimulate healthy discussion and debate, and who knows how far it will take you. Maybe afterward you can shake hands... and then invite your opponent over for dinner.. and then he or she becomes your BFF (best friend forever). You never know!

Locals versus outsiders. We need to leave race out of this debate. Exclusion of views because of ethnicity fosters animosity and bigotry, and on this beautiful island, we need to be celebrating our ethnic diversity. If you live here and care about our community, then you should rightfully have a voice in this matter. There is a diverse group that represents both sides, and it is unfair to believe that either side has more locals than non-locals. Again, that should not be the point and should be avoided at all costs, as it is extremely divisive and narrow-minded. Let's rise above this and let us all agree that this is not a battle between locals versus outsiders. You cannot be considered an outsider if you live and work here in the CNMI, even if you are a non-citizen! If you reside here and work here and you pay taxes, then you deserve to be heard, just as much as you deserve equal representation. Let us all agree that every single living person in the CNMI is entitled to their opinion, regardless of race, gender, age, income, or citizenship.

Don't shoot the messenger. Mr. James Connaughton, White House Council on Environmental Quality chief, and federal staff members are here for dialog. They are here to discuss the potential for creating a marine monument and to listen to the community's concerns. Can we all agree to show him our warm island hospitality and discuss with him and his staff our concerns and objections in a cordial manner? Can we express why we are either for it or against it, without admonishing him or his staff members? I had the pleasure of attending Monday night's forum, and I was impressed by the fact that he and his staffers were there to *listen* attentively to all concerns being expressed. I've heard him speak at two different functions and in a radio interview with Harry Blalock. He has repeated his commitment to listen to the concerns of our people. Let's show them what the *Hafa Adai* spirit is all about. Mr. Connaughton reports directly to President Bush. Wouldn't it be nice if he could speak about our legendary hospitality, regardless of our personal positions on the monument?

Agree to disagree. If you have exhausted all persuasive efforts and your opponent still does not agree with you, then perhaps you will be unable to convince your opponent to agree with your position. Agree to disagree and be thankful for the opportunity to debate the issue. If you both listened to each other attentively and calmly and rationally, perhaps you will walk away having a great deal of respect for each other.

These five ground rules, if embraced and applied, can certainly go a long way. For the record, I have friends who are both for and against the monument. Monday night, I walked up to Rep. Ray Tebuteb and shook his hand and gave him a warm hug. We happen to have different views on the monument. Not once did he tell me I was wrong. Not once did I tell him he was wrong. There were no feelings of animosity. He had valid concerns, and they need to be addressed. Hopefully, they can be. I consider Rep. Tebuteb a dear friend, and our opposing views will not affect our friendship. We have taken different positions and have formulated different opinions, and we may or may not continue to discuss our opposing views. But I will certainly continue to greet him and discuss with him various issues affecting our islands.

Do I support the proposal of a marine monument? Yes I do. There are several reasons why I support it, but there is one that stands out in my mind: economic opportunities. Our economy continues to flounder. PSS and NMC continue to suffer from budget cuts, as do all government agencies. Things are going from bad to worse rather quickly. We need to stimulate our economy. Do the research and you will find that where marine monuments pop up, money follows in the form of visitor centers and research facilities and jobs. People will still be able to travel to the Northern Islands, and we must realize that the federal government cannot take control of the three islands in question. That is not what is at stake here. What is a stake here is a golden economic opportunity. As far as rushing it right through? If it is to be approved, the process will be discussed for a lengthy period of time, with assurance that we will co-manage the marine monument and that we will have equal representation, as is in the case of Hawaii's marine national monument, Papahanaumokuakea. Please, do your research and you will see the economic benefits this monument stands to bring us.

I am quite certain someone will follow up with a letter to me and will tell me all the reasons why I am wrong. I welcome it. I have done enough research to understand both sides, and I felt compelled to take a stand. I want to say that I applaud every single person who has done their homework and has taken the initiative to separate fact from fiction. Whether you are for it or against the proposed marine monument, I wish all of us well as we continue to discuss the marine monument proposal.

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

Mutually exclusive? Not!

It is almost an embarrassment that someone with as much education and experience as has former judge Juan T. Lizama does not seem to understand that efforts in the U.S. Congress to re-gain a CNMI claim to the waters around could continue even if the U.S. President were to grant co-management of the full EEZ to the CNMI.

Lizama is quoted as saying, in the Thursday issue of the *Saipan Tribune*, that he hoped monument supporters would postpone their activities until the U.S. Congress settles "the submerged lands issue."

These are not mutually exclusive activities!

The Presidential action, which—if it takes place—could give the CNMI co-management rights well beyond 3 or 12 miles of submerged lands—will not affect what Congress may or may not choose to do.

It does not make sense to give up such an offer of co-management rights direct from the President of the United States in hopes that the large, contentious, slow-moving 400-plus members of the U.S. Congress may—at some unknown date in the future—grant the tiny, remote, largely unknown islands of the CNMI control over what most likely will not be more than three, or at the most 12, miles of ocean.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Austerity Fridays 2: The Sequel

Well, well. Looks like unnecessary spending by our government leaders has led us once again to Austerity Fridays. It is amazing how this always is their solution to reducing government spending. Instead of making the average employee suffer by taking a big chunk of their paycheck, why couldn't government leaders to the following instead:

■ Decrease the salaries of judges from $120,000 per year to $80,000. They are ridiculously overpaid.

■ Decrease the $5,000 allowance that senators get per month down to $2,000 per month. Senators are currently getting $39,000 salary per year plus the $60,000 allowance. That's $99,000 per year per senator. Decreasing the allowance would result to $324,000 per year in savings.

■ Reduce the size of the Legislature. We don't need three senators for every island. We don't need more than one congressman per precinct. Who in the Legislature actually has the courage and selflessness to vote for this? Too many lawmakers, so little progress.

■ Decrease the salaries of agency directors. They average about $$60,000-70,000 per year.

■ Apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature. This will allow us to track down spending abuse by local leaders. Legislators, what are some of you hiding?

■ Do not dare waste hundreds of thousands of dollars on a useless lawsuit that will just hurt our relationship with the U.S.

■ Aggreko sound familiar? We would have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars if we went with Telesource. We also wouldn't have had to wait such a long time to get the power we needed because the generators are on Tinian.

The list goes on and on. This is just the tip of the iceberg. See what happens when people at the top are not making the right decisions? It is the people at the bottom and those around them that end up suffering. Biba Marianas! Fanogi Chamorru!

Jesse Torres
Kagman, Saipan

Mutual respect

Respect for your elders, respect for the law, respect for our people has always been the teaching my parents wanted me to adhere to. I try to follow this teaching as the basis of everything that I do. This past Monday, at Fiesta Resort & Spa, many of our locals witnessed an awesome moment in history. James Connaughton, chairman of the Council for Environmental Quality, an office of the White House, was one of the highest ranking members of the federal administration to visit our islands in nearly 20 years.

Mr. Connaughton, thank you for visiting our islands and thank you for taking the time to talk to our elected leaders and for speaking one-on-one with our people. I ask our people to consider this gesture as a chance to help heal the CNMI's relationship with the federal government after heated controversies over minimum wage and immigration laws.

Mr. Connaughton, your invitation to our people to engage in open dialogue about our interests and listen to our concerns regarding the proposal for establishing a marine national monument brings us new hope for repairing our relationship with the federal government. It is a public acknowledgment of respect for our indigenous cultural values and traditions. I hope that based on this, we can begin to develop mutual trust and respect.

Andrew Salas
Chalan Kanoa

Remembering Julian

I'm here in Ft. Hood Texas, and we all can sense that Staff Sgt. Julian Manglona's spirit is still with us. We are all affected by his passing last Oct. 9. There is not a day that passes without mentioning his name and the good memories we have of him. Julian will be missed by all of us at Echo Company, Infantry Battalion.

Julian was among the few good soldiers I could say I established a close friendship with. This is what I remember of Julian: The minute we sit down, he always talked about his ambition to be a Mayor of Tinian. He would joke that he will appoint me as his public information officer. Julian's dream was to be a politician one day. Whenever Julian and I meet, I would say " Hey, Mayor!" and he would turn and laugh and say, "That's why I like you Indy!" Also, I used to call him "Airborne" for his passion for physical fitness. He will push himself to the limit of physical endurance. He would always say, "Indy, if us old [men] can do it, why not the young?"

Julian was a role model. He would always volunteer for any task that needed to be done. Julian was assigned as a squad leader prior to his promotion to staff sergeant for his leadership ability, among others. Julian was a competitor, as well as a mentor among his peers. He was not afraid to take on challenges for higher leadership responsibilities.

I once sat down with Julian, and I remember him talking so proudly about his children. He would mention that his parents taught him the traditional Chamorro culture and that's what he wanted to instill in his children. He would talk about investing houses and properties for his children. I remember once, he would shop for toys and put them in huge boxes to mail home so his kids will have good Christmas. I told him, "All this big boxes cover half of your barracks room!" and we'd laugh.

I've known Julian for so many years while serving in the Army Reserve. I have seen so much change in him. He had always shared how happy he is now and that he would want to continue to better his life. Julian, you were with us, you will always be with us in spirit, and may God bless you always.

Fabian Indalecio
Fort Hood, Texas

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LaoLao Bay Golf Resort
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Sunday, November 9, 2008
Show Time: 6:00 a.m.
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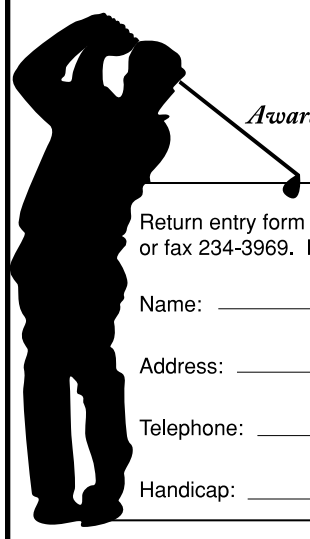

Return entry form to Ben Babauta, DFS Galleria Contact Nos. 236-2563 / 483-2563 or fax 234-3969. Make checks payable to: Rotary Club of Saipan

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USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-015F	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	59734	WHITE	ADJ-831	9,299	
R08-018F	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	44981	WHITE	ABY-667	8,199	
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	
R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
U08-043P	2000	CELICA 2DR	MANUAL	72097	BLUE	ABZ-838	7,999	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
U08-067P	1995	LEXUS LS400	AUTO	24762	WHITE	ABS-062	11,399	
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	26,899
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~11,899~~	10,599
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	4,899
GM VAN								
R08-017F	2003	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	117560	WHITE	BUS-1077	9,499	
GM SPORT UTILITY								
U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	9,999	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	~~19,185~~	17,699

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Labor cases closed fairly and finally

By CINTA M. KAIPAT
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Cinta M. Kaipat is the Deputy Secretary of Labor.

The report that the Department of Labor had completed an important project to adjudicate its backlog of pending cases brought criticism from the usual sources. In order to keep the record straight, I am reporting the following facts.

Closure of Labor cases

The Legislature provided a virtually free method for foreign workers to pursue claims against employers: they may file complaints with the Department of Labor. Like any other resident of the Commonwealth, a foreign national worker may also file a complaint in the Commonwealth or federal courts, pursue an action with the EEOC, try to gain the attention of the U.S. Department of Labor, or even pursue the National Labor Relations Board. No worker is limited in a forum; the Department of Labor is one option. A worker can choose that option or some other option.

The Commonwealth is not required by any constitutional principle to provide an administrative adjudication procedure outside its court system. The Commonwealth does so by decision of the Legislature because it is helpful to foreign workers and employers. In the Unite d States, there is no similar—virtually free—forum for the adjudication of guest worker complaints. In the State of Florida, guest workers must go to court to enforce their contracts. In Florida, the state does not pay investigators to look into guest worker claims. In Florida, the state does not pay hearing officers to hear guest worker claims. In Florida, the state does not provide an administrative appellate authority where guest workers can appeal adverse decisions. The Commonwealth system is a more progressive (and more expensive) system than exists in most other U.S. jurisdictions.

In the Commonwealth, a labor case is heard by a hearing officer. That hearing officer issues a written opinion. The decision of the hearing officer may be appealed to the Secretary of Labor. The Secretary issues a written opinion. When that process is finished, the case is completed and closed. The Department of Labor does not have authority to go further. The closure of the case is the Department of Labor's final action.

Collection on Labor awards

When it enacted PL 15-108, the Legislature decided on how labor awards should be collected. It did not give collection authority to the Department of Labor. The word "collection" does not appear anywhere in PL 15-108. Simply put, the Department of Labor was not given the authority by the Legislature to do collections work.

There are very solid policy reasons for this. First, the authority necessary to properly enforce awards of money damages involve very substantial powers. The Legislature decided that those extraordinary powers—to levy against bank accounts, sell property, and even jail those held in contempt—are properly limited to the courts. Second, all other residents of the Commonwealth look to the courts for enforcement of awards, and there is no reason why foreign workers should not do likewise. The Small Claims Court acts promptly and allows petitions to be filed for free by those who cannot pay. Third, enforcement of labor awards may involve bonding companies who are not necessary parties to Department of Labor proceedings. The bonding companies are entitled to due process, and the courts provide that.

No guarantee of employer prosperity

The contract between a foreign worker and an employer in the Commonwealth does not provide a guarantee against business failure, bankruptcy, incompetent management, or embezzlement that causes a business to fail. In our free-market system, there are risks inherent in the employment relationship. Not every single employment relationship will result in full employment and full payment of wages. That is true for citizens as well as foreign workers. The Commonwealth has more protections in place for foreign workers than most jurisdictions in the U.S. We are a conscientious community, and we have provided a fair system. But there are no absolute guarantees. If the business fails, and the bonding company fails, and there is no one from whom the courts can extract the money to pay the award—by seizing assets or sending responsible persons to jail until they pay up—then the matter is at an end.

Action against bonding companies

The Legislature has made the Department of Commerce responsible for the governance of bonding companies. The Legislature did not give the Department of Labor any licensing, disciplinary, or collection authority over bonding companies. There are sensible policy reasons for the Legislature's choice in this regard. Bonding companies are businesses. The Commerce Department has expertise in the licensing of businesses. Bonds to ensure payment of wages of foreign workers are contracts. Those contracts are enforceable in the courts.

Wendy Doromal wants to know why the Department of Labor does not "go after" bonding companies. The short answer is, we have no authority to "go after" bonding companies. (One might similarly say why doesn't the Department of Labor "go after" predatory lending to foreign workers, or thefts of property from foreign workers, or sales of drugs to foreign workers, and the answer would be the same. The Legislature did not give the Department of Labor the authority to do so.) We have authority to adjudicate cases involving claims between foreign national workers and employers (and in some instances between citizens and employers) and issue administrative orders. We do that very fairly and effectively. Our orders are rarely overturned in the courts.

Worker delay

Foreign worker delay in filing claims is an important cause of the uncollectibility of Department of Labor administrative awards of monetary damages. Under prior law, foreign workers could wait up to a year to file their claims, and a great number did that. So, for example, a worker might have a contract that was approved in January, then in March, the business begins to fail; by April, the worker is not being paid, and in May, the business closes. The worker files a claim in December—right at the end of the period of time of authorized stay in the Commonwealth. That was the worker's choice under the old law. However, because of the delay in filing the complaint, when the Department's investigators pursue the case, the business owners have completed their closure and left the Commonwealth.

A second aspect of worker delay occurs after the complaint is filed. Commonwealth law allows a worker to remain in the Commonwealth (and to work) while the complaint is pending. Under those circumstances, a delay of several years may be nothing to complain about from a worker's standpoint. And indeed, the Department's records indicate that it is a rare case in which a worker asks to have a case expedited. Again, delay may result in the ultimate award being uncollectible.

Reasons for the accumulated backlog

The Department of Labor has been criticized for the existence of the backlog of labor cases. This Administration did not build the backlog; we cleaned it up. The reasons for the accumulated backlog are many. Among them: (1) Any Administration has to establish priorities; ours was to clean up the backlog and to stay current. That is not to criticize the choices made by other Administrations. When money and personnel are scarce, difficult choices have to be made; (2) When the garment factories began to close in 2005, there was a wave of anxiety among garment workers and many filed claims as soon as they were laid off just to remain in the Commonwealth. A huge wave of claims was filed from mid-2004 to the end of 2005. In many cases, these claims were without merit. But all of them had to be mediated, investigated, heard, and all of the processes had to be completed. The Legislature gave the Department of Labor no extra personnel or funds to take on this task because there were other important public priorities—such as education, public safety, and public health—that made demands on available revenues; (3) The labor law in force prior to 2008 was written in 1983, and had been amended in patchwork fashion over the years. It did not provide the Department of Labor with the necessary flexibility to establish efficient procedures. That changed with the enactment of PL 15-108. And when it changed, we most definitely got better results.

Looked at in perspective, the number of claims is actually relatively small. From 1997 to 2007, the Commonwealth had about 200,000 worker years—that is individual workers working for one year. Out of those 200,000 employment relationships, a backlog of slightly under 5,000 complaints means that the vast majority of employment relationships proceeded without complaints.

Relationship to repatriation

Irene Tantiado suggests that perhaps the Department of Labor backlog project might have been "designed to ship out all nonresident workers in the CNMI." Setting aside the obvious point that there is absolutely no basis whatsoever for that accusation, I remind Ms. Tantiado that the Department of Labor does not "ship out" anyone from the Commonwealth. We arrange voluntary repatriations when foreign workers wish to return to their country of origin. The Department of Labor handles only voluntary travel home, and we provide tickets so that workers do not have to meet that expense—as they would in other U.S. jurisdictions (including Florida).

It is the responsibility of the Division of Immigration to deport persons who do not have status to remain in the Commonwealth. I venture to guess that you will find a considerably more stern hand in the "shipping out" department once the U.S. Department of Homeland Security takes over the immigration functions next June.

Consultations

The Department of Labor recently sponsored a public meeting to discuss with members of the foreign worker community their suggestions for improvements in the Department's procedures. We had a very good attendance at that session. Irene Tantiado was not involved in our discussions, although she wrote a letter to the editor about what she would like to see changed in our Labor procedures. I know that, at least while I have been Deputy Secretary, Wendy Doromal has never visited the Department of Labor and, to my knowledge, has corresponded directly with the Department of Labor only once—to instigate my removal as an employee of the Department of Labor, among other things. Her letter, in its reincarnated form, was re-sent to the Secretary of Labor by Reps. Tina Sablan and Edward Salas and published in the newspaper media not too long ago. All of Ms. Doromal's communication have been made through the media. The foreign workers who came to our session provided valuable input; we are working out procedures to implement some of their advice. Consultation, rather than hurling accusations across columns of the news media, is often a better way to make progress. My door is open. My e-mail address is depsec2@gmail.com.

A perspective on the Pew proposal

To make an enlightened decision on the proposal by the Pew Charitable Trusts to create a national monument around the CNMI's three northernmost islands of Maug, Asuncion, and Uracas, which includes about 115,000 square miles of ocean area, we should first look at this offer from a historical perspective.

Our ancestors knew that they owned the sea surrounding their islands. To them, any other conclusion was totally incomprehensible. They owned the sea because it was part of their physical environment, which dominated their lives. Nearly every aspect of life, especially in smaller islands, was influenced or controlled by the sea. The rhythm of life was dictated by the sea. Its turbulences told people when they could travel and when they cannot. It controlled the habits of fish and the habits of humans seeking them. The sea challenged people, it tested their character, and provided life with drama and meaning.

The only way one can understand how an islander feels about this world dominated by the sea is to adopt his perspective, to perceive life from this point of view. To an islander, one's "territory" is its surface habitat, and the sea is an important a part of an islander's surface habitat as is the land. In the mind of a traditional islander, there is no logical distinction between continental nations and islands in the allocation of the earth's resources. They cannot understand the fairness of continental nations having rights in the resources of the sea of small islands but islanders having no rights in the land-based resources of continental nations.

To understand the resentment an islander feels at outsiders taking huge quantities of fish from his surrounding waters, one need only imagine how an American would feel if islanders were permitted to freely drill for oil in their backyard, without permission or payment of compensation. The territory and resources of small islands are largely aquatic. Rights in both categories of surface area exist equally in the minds of men and should therefore be equally respected.

Juan Borja Tudela
Mayor of Saipan

Disappointed

We are at this point disappointed at the publicity stunt that former senator David Cing has taken on the matter concerning the issue of his brother Raynaldo Cing and DPL. If this is the type of immature attitude the former senator is expressing to the community, then we believe he has no business being in U.S. Congress.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider, chairman of the Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, had made a reasonable and wise decision to hold off the scheduled hearing of DPL until the election is over, which we believe is out of respect and courtesy for the former senator and the simple fact that DPL Secretary John DelRosario has delayed producing any of the documents being requested.

The issue with DPL and the Senate hearing being conducted has nothing to do with the non-voting delegate or this election for that matter. Taotao Tano found improprieties in the disposition of our public lands that warrant serious investigations. We should understand and realize that the Secretary of DPL is held to a high standard of fiduciary duty in the management and disposition of our public lands and when questions arise we demand answers. We hope that OPA and OAG would not be biased in the matter for they are both well aware of what has been transpiring with DPL.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano

Washington officials upbeat about visit to the Commonwealth

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal officials sent by President Bush to conduct an evaluation and assessment of potential marine conservation management areas in the Pacific region met with members of the Rotary Club of Saipan Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency.

James Connaughton, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, said they are glad to be here on Saipan and meeting with government officials, the public and the rest of the community.

Connaughton is accompanied on this trip by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce John Sullivan and Assistant Secretary of the Interior Lyle Laverty.

Connaughton explained that President Bush wants to make sure that he would not make any move that would have enormous consequences.

"That's why he sent us here to do the assessment and we will make the recommendations after talking to the people of the CNMI," Connaughton said.

He said Saipan is just one of the areas the group will make such an assessment,

They were in American Samoa and Hawaii before coming to the CNMI.

Connaughton said they would evaluate if these potential marine conservation areas deserve national monument designation, protection or to improve conservation and management under available authorities.

Connaughton said they would complete their final report for submission to the President at the end of this month.

He said Bush wants to approve such recommendations before his term ends.

The U.S. officials met with lawmakers Monday on Capital Hill and some 350 community members later that night at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Some of the potential areas the U.S. government is focusing on include equatorial islands and are federally owned, namely Johnston Atoll, Baker Holland Jarvis, Palmyra, Kingston Reef (called Pacific Remote Island), Prias, Rose Atoll in American, Samoa and the Marianas Islands chain.

"We are here to share ideas. We will be recommending to the President on what resources the federal government can use to make the final decision on whether such areas deserve recognition, protection or make necessary improvement," Connaughton said.

He said they would gather scientific information on biology, geology, historical resources, and about the people and their culture.

"It is our first time to visit Saipan. It's a beautiful place. This is the first time that we stayed for a longer time, four days, which is unusual for us. Usually it would take only a day for us to stay in a place. The President told us to make sure we talk to all the people here," he said.

The group toured Rota and Tinian by helicopter on their first day in the CNMI last Sunday.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Federal officials led by James Connaughton, second from right, take time for a photo session after appearing in Tuesday's regular session of the Rotary Club of Saipan at Hyatt Regency.

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2*6*14 Utility regular	$7.90	2*6*14 Utility treated	$12.20
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EPA to hold emergency response training in Guam

HONOLULU—Emergency response staff from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Pacific Southwest regional office will be holding two emergency response training sessions for Guam first responders on Nov. 4-7 in conjunction with the United States Coast Guard and Oceania Regional Response Team meeting in Guam on Nov. 7.

The hazardous materials response training will cover the operation, maintenance, and repair of equipment presently available to Guam first responders. The session will also include hands-on exercises in identifying unknown hazards, such agriculture chemicals and pesticides, hospital radiation sources, drug labs and other situations where chemicals are improperly disposed or buried. This training session will also be held in CNMI the following week.

"Training is the cornerstone for being prepared to respond to the various hazardous materials situations that may arise day-to-day," said Daniel Meer, Superfund Assistant Director for Emergency Response, Preparedness and Prevention in the EPA's Pacific Southwest region. "U.S. EPA welcomes the opportunity to work and train with our partners in Guam, to help ensure that they are ready to respond when an incident occurs."

The second training event will be a Natural Resource Damage Assessment workshop with the support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It will cover the basics of natural resource damage assessment and restoration of the resources of Guam and CNMI, and provide a practical working knowledge of damage assessment principles and their application to oil and chemical spills, vessel groundings, and similar incidents. Discussions and products from the workshop are intended to assist agencies in developing a NRDA program for Guam and CNMI.

The hazardous materials response training is being hosted by the Guam Homeland Security's Office of Civil Defense in conjunction with the Guam National Guard's 94th Civil Support Team and will be held at the Guam National Guard Academy facilities. The NRDA workshop will be held at the Hilton on Tumon Bay.

The Oceania Regional Response Team meeting will be held on Nov. 7. The ORRT provides federal, state, territorial and local government agencies with the means to participate in response and preparedness activities related to pollution incidents. The ORRT jurisdiction includes Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, and other Pacific Island territories and nations.

For more information on the ORRT visit http://www.orrt.nrt.org/. ***(EPA)***

USCG to conduct mission patrol in French Polynesia

ABOARD THE USCGC WALNUT—After a 2,500-mile trip, the crew of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Walnut* will conduct vital maritime safety and security missions throughout the French Polynesia region.

The cutter's crew is scheduled to arrive in Papete, Tahiti, Thursday.

During the patrol, the crew of the 225-foot buoy tender, home ported in Honolulu, will ensure compliance with fisheries conservation in cooperation with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, a regional fisheries management organization comprised of 26 member nations that regulates commercial fishing practices to ensure the sustainability of the region's tuna fishery.

While in Papeete, the Coast Guard crew will assist local environmental groups with the removal of the destructive Taramea starfish from the reefs around Tahiti.

After departing Papeete, the crew of the *Walnut* plans to conduct law enforcement operations with a fisheries enforcement officer from the Cook Islands Ministry of Marine Resources.

Ship rider opportunities are made possible under the terms of a bilateral law enforcement agreement with the U.S. The Coast Guard has similar agreements with Palau, Federated States of Micronesia and Marshall Islands.

The crew will also meet with local Papeete officials to discuss opportunities to increase partnerships in the maritime domain.

Toward the end of the patrol, the *Walnut*'s crew will perform routine maintenance on U.S. aids to navigation, such as fixed buoys and lights. ***(USCG)***

Casting call

Auditions will be held for the upcoming play, *It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas,* the Broadway version of the movie *Miracle on 34th Street.*

Auditions are on Wednesday, Oct. 29, and Thursday, Oct. 30, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, and on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 2pm to 4pm, at D-101 MHS (Mr. Easton's Studio). Parts are available for children and adults.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
AND
BUILDING SAFETY CODE OFFICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Building Safety Code Division of the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) wish to jointly remind CNMI licensed architects and engineers practicing in the CNMI about having the appropriate professional sealing and signing plans, preliminary studies, designs, drawings, specifications, and other technical documents which are submitted with the building permit applications.

The following requirements, compiled from P.L. 6-45 – Building Safety Code, and from P.L. 14-95 – Board of Professional Licensing Act, and the BPL regulations and Rules of Professional Conduct, are intended to clear any confusion or misconception in compliance with any previously published requirements.

/s/ Francisco Q. Guerrero
Chairman
Board of Professional Licensing

/s/ Martin Sablan
Building Safety Official
DPW – Building Safety Code Division

BUILDING SAFETY CODE OFFICE/BPL REQUIREMENTS

A. Any privately owned or privately controlled one-storied building, dwelling or structure, the estimated cost of which does not exceed $50,000, and designed in conformance with the International Building Code (IBC), may be submitted together with the building permit application, without being sealed/signed by a CNMI licensed architect or engineer, and notwithstanding that various lending institutions may require that such plans be sealed/signed by a CNMI licensed architect or engineer as a condition to secure funding for construction of the building or structure. §3222, P.L.14-95

B. The seal and signature of a CNMI licensed architects and engineers in the appropriate branches of the professions shall be affixed to each of the plans, preliminary studies, designs, drawings, specifications, and other technical documents in the final form for all multi-family dwellings, residential subdivisions, and commercial buildings, or any such document which involves any aspect of the practice of architecture and engineering, except as provided below: (Section B to H cited from Part 9 of the Regulations for Engineers, Architects, Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects)
   1. All portions of documents for single family detached dwellings may be sealed/signed by an architect, civil or structural engineer, including waste disposal (septic tank) and other site development.
   2. Documents for the structural portion of buildings no greater than three (3) stories high may be sealed/signed by a civil engineer or an architect.

C. All plans, preliminary studies, designs, drawings, specifications, and other technical documents for foundations and structural framing of pre-engineered structures sealed/signed by an engineer licensed by another jurisdiction shall also be reviewed and signed/sealed by a CNMI licensed civil or structural engineer.

D. When a CNMI-licensee certifies the work of an out-of-state licensor, the CNMI-licensee shall have complete dominion control of the design, shall maintain possession of the sealed/signed reproducible drawings including completed sealed/signed calculations indicating all changes in the original design and shall be wholly responsible for the work.

E. The mechanical, plumbing and fire protection plans, preliminary studies, designs, drawings, specifications, and other technical documents for all multi-family dwellings, and commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings shall be sealed/signed by a CNMI-licensed mechanical engineer. Plumbing plans for buildings no greater than 3 stories high may be sealed/signed by a CNMI licensed architect or civil engineer.

F. All electrical plans, studies, designs, drawings, specifications, electrical load calculations and other technical documents shall be sealed/signed by a CNMI-licensed electrical engineer, where the following conditions are applicable:
   1. The project involves new construction or renovation work for a commercial building, multi-family dwelling, industrial and institutional building.
   2. For a one and two-family residential structure with electrical power service greater than 200 amperes, or which has 3-phase power requirements. Note: For one and two-family residential structures or other small projects with electrical requirements, a CNMI-licensed architect, civil engineer or mechanical engineer may seal/sign the plans and load calculations.
   3. The project or occupancy utilizes a power service which exceeds 240 volts, nominal.
   4. The project or occupancy is classified as "Special" or "Hazardous", and is subject to approval by the Building Safety Official.

G. The seal and signature shall be prima facie evidence that the work was prepared by or under the direct supervision or control of the licensee named on the seal and the licensee accepts full responsibility and liability for the professional work presented.

H. Licensees shall approve and seal only those design documents, including plans and specifications, which will produce structures and other works which are safe for public health, safety, and welfare in conformity with accepted architectural and engineering standards.

I. The licensee's seal and signature shall be placed on all original drawings, tracings, specifications and other reproducible documents so that the seal/signature is reproduced each time copies are made. This includes electronic documents.

You may contact the Building Safety Code Office at 234-BSCO(2726) or the Board of Professional Licensing at 664-4809 if you have any questions to the above.

Cabbies learn how to assist clients with disabilities

Twenty members of the Saipan City Taxi Association participated in a two-hour training that will enable its members to better serve members of the public with mental or physical disabilities.

The training, conducted by the Northern Marianas Protection Advocacy Systems Inc. on Oct. 23, 2008, provided the taxi drivers with information about the Americans with Disabilities Act or ADA.

The event also included sensitivity training and role playing demonstrations when working with customers who have mental or physical disabilities, and who are seeking transportation from taxi drivers.

Rabby Syed, president of the Association, requested the training for his drivers as he sees people with disabilities as a large part of the community who are in need of transportation services. He wanted to take a proactive approach on what taxi drivers should be aware of when providing services to persons with disabilities, to ensure appropriate services are given and all customers are treated with dignity and respect.

The training was held at the NMPASI conference room, located in Gualo Rai.

NMPASI is the state designated agency, which provides rights protection for people with disabilities through legally-based advocacy or representation and operates with the mission to protect the civil, legal, and human interests of people with disabilities. ***(PR)***

2nd, 3rd presentations on The Fort timeshare club for CNMI residents

Families, individuals and businesses who missed the first presentation on how to buy a timeshare at the new The Fort Timeshare Vacation Club in Metro Manila for $99 a month and a one-time initiation fee of $1,000 are invited to attend the second and third presentations.

The second presentation will be held Saturday, Oct. 25, at 10a., Room 404 on the fourth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (formerly Nauru Building) in Susupe, Saipan.

Another presentation will be held on Sunday, Nov. 2, at 5pm at the same venue.

For a monthly payment of $99, the member and his family or friends get to stay for one week a year at the luxurious The Fort Palm Spring Condominiums. The condominium is located at The Fort, which is the Philippines' newest center of culture and trade. The use of the one-bedroom condominium unit will continue for the life of the building as long as one is a member of the timeshare club.

Besides a seven-day stay in a condominium at a serene urban sanctuary every year, members of The Fort Timeshare Vacation Club get a free car and driver to take them wherever they need and want to go within Metro Manila, free cell phone, free maid service, and free referral to nurses, babysitters and personal shoppers during their vacation.

All these free services that will make one's Manila vacation a more convenient and relaxing experience are not offered by pricey hotels that will charge you over $100 a day.

In addition, buying membership in a timeshare condo unit will allow a member to "lock in" the cost of his vacation lodging at $99 a month for many years to come. This means one's monthly payment will not be affected by depreciation/inflation, unlike hotel prices that are sure to go up every year. A $120 nightly rate at good hotels in Manila this year, for example, may cost $150 or more in the next three to five years.

There are no maintenance fees, association fees and other hidden costs when one buys a membership unit. A member can also sell or transfer his rights to the timeshare vacation property to other individuals of his choice, including his kin.

A timeshare is a form of shared ownership and right to the use of a property. Timeshare properties are typically resort condominium units in which multiple parties hold rights to use the property. Each member is allotted a period of time, typically one week every year, in which they may use the property. Buying a timeshare is convenient for CNMI residents who regularly visit Manila either for medical purpose or vacation.

Members of The Fort Timeshare Vacation Club will get to use the condo's amenities, including a swimming pool, gym, spa and function room. Each condo unit is fully furnished and equipped with a complete kitchen system, telephone lines, cable TV system, air conditioning, water heater, exhaust system, individual water and power metering and Internet access, among other things.

Hundreds of high-end shops, restaurants, coffee shops and other commercial establishments are within walking distance of the condo building. Also within a few short miles are five major medical centers in the Philippines—St. Luke's Medical Center, Asian Hospital and Medical Center, The Medical City, Makati Medical Center, and Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

The Fort Timeshare Vacation Club is made available to CNMI residents by JL Finance Co. Inc., a Saipan-based firm primarily engaged in real estate and consumer finance business focusing on small and medium sized enterprises. It is affiliated with the University of Loyola at CNMI and Kaiser Group of Medical Clinics and Residential Facilities, Inc.

Contact JL Finance at 234 8004 or 234 8005, or email lee.jlfinance@yahoo.com to attend the presentations, which are free of charge to all interested persons. ***(PR)***

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SSA to hike benefits by 5.8 percent in 2009

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits for more than 55 million Americans will increase by 5.8 percent in 2009, according to a Social Security Administration statement issued yesterday.

The 5.8 percent increase is the largest since 1982.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits increase automatically each year based on the rise in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' *Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers* (CPI-W), from the third quarter of the prior year to the corresponding period of the current year. This year's increase in the CPI-W was 5.8 percent.

The 5.8 percent Cost-of-Living Adjustment will begin with benefits that over 50 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2009. Increased payments to more than 7 million Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries will begin on Dec. 31.

Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to $106,800 from $102,000. Of the estimated 164 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2009, about 11 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum.

Information about Medicare changes in 2009 can be found in www.medicare.gov. ***(PR)***

Rota school kicks off Red Ribbon Week

In celebration of the National Red Ribbon Week on Oct. 23-31, 2008, the Pacific Regional Training Institute kicked off its DARE/GUTS program at Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, Rota on Oct. 23, 2008.

Substance abuse in the CNMI, Guam, and in other countries has contributed to numerous community problems, from domestic violence to broken homes.

The school's DARE/GUTS program is headed by its regional supervisor, Sergeant First Class Edward C. Maratita Jr. of the U.S. Armed Forces Military Police Command and the Department of Defense Educational Activity.

According to Maratita, the campaign began the tradition of wearing a red ribbon as a symbol of intolerance toward the use of drugs.

Every year, various activities have been planned to show the program's commitment to a drug-free school and community. On Oct. 31, 2008, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja DARE/GUTS Student Body Council will hold a Red Ribbon Week Halloween Costume contest and Group Dance contest. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja DARE/GUTS Student Body members: From left, ESFDB DARE Student Body president Pauline Taisacan, Randee Jo Barcinas, Maricel Atalig, Van Cing, Angelique Perez, Rhea Costales, ESFDB GUTS Student Body president Vannah Hocog, Rochelle Masga, and Baltazar Mendiola. (Not in Photo, SFC Edward Maratita, Jr.)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Marriage Encounter weekend set

Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on Nov. 14-16, 2008 at the Saipan Grand Hotel. If you are interested in joining the next ME Weekend, contact the Fall 2008 Registration Couple, John & Vicky Mafnas at 285-8454, e-mail vbmafnas@yahoo.com.

All Encountered Couples and Priests are invited to share their gifts, talents and time in the planning and hosting of this powerful Weekend! The next Planning meeting will be held Thur, Oct 30th at 7:00 pm at the residence of Charles & Cathy Cepeda in Fina Sisu. Bring a potluck dish and join in the planning fun! ***(PR)***

DEQ cleanup at Tank Beach

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Tank Beach in Kagman.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet with the volunteers on Saturday, Nov. 1, at 8am.

Volunteers will clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

Volunteers removed 1,740 lbs of debris from Coral Ocean Point on Oct. 4. The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '78 reunion

The MHS Class of 1978 is having its 30th year Class Reunion at the Susupe Beach Park (potluck-style) on Sunday, Oct. 25, from 11am to 4pm. Classmates are welcome to bring their families. Should you have any questions, contact Viol Guerrero at 285-1268, Ben Sablan at 483-3277, or Liz Balajadia at 898-9535. ***(PR)***

FoA presents *The Good Doctor*

The Good Doctor, a play be Neil Simon, will be performed by the Friends of the Arts on Friday, Oct. 24, Saturday, and Oct. 25, at 7pm. There will be a matinee performance on Sunday, Oct. 26, at 3pm. All performances will be held at the American Memorial Park Museum Theatre.

The Good Doctor debuted on Broadway in 1973 and is composed of 11 one-act scenes set in the late 19th century. The play is based on a variety of short stories by Chekhov. One reviewer reported, "There is much fun here!" You won't want to miss this wonderful Neil Simon play.

Tickets are available from FOA members or at the door. Prices for tickets are $10 for FOA members, $12 for non-FOA members, students with student ID are $5. ***(PR)***

My Dear People of this the Commonwealth:

As your elected Congressional Delegate in Washington, I pledge to work closely with the U.S. Federal Government and Members of Congress across party lines in building and sustaining positive and progressive relation between the executive administration of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas government and the US federal government agencies. This should also include the non-profit associations and other non-government organizations, in addition to corporate and small businesses in the United States and no less the United States Congress in a tradition which comports with a fundamental goal set forth by the Covenant negotiators that the United States Government assists the newly established local government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in developing its economic base in order to achieve a progressively higher standard of living for our people as part of the mainstream American political family and eventually become full partners in the American economic community, and for the Commonwealth to develop its economic resources that would support and eventually meet the financial responsibilities of local self-government. With this vision, I will focus my energy on certain defined areas of priorities, but not limited to the following:

- working with the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Federal grantor agencies, Interagency Group of Insular Areas (IGIA) and the United States Congress in the optimal attainment of financial, technical and networking assistance for the development of the social, economic and physical infrastructure of the CNMI consistent with applicable provisions of the Covenant;
- pursuing other non-monetary economic; development assistance opportunities with appropriate federal agencies, including the State Department, in promoting overseas trade and commerce, attract new foreign investment to the CNMI as well as increase indigenous entrepreneurial participation in local investment;
- working with appropriate federal agencies in the development of local capacity in building an effective, accountable and transparent government at the state and municipal levels of government and other public sector institutions and systems;

These are just some of the issues that I will like to bring to the U.S. Congress as your Delegate for the CNMI.

- working with the U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) and the United States Congress and the White House towards a full cost recovery of the CNMI "cover-over" funds pursuant to the Covenant;

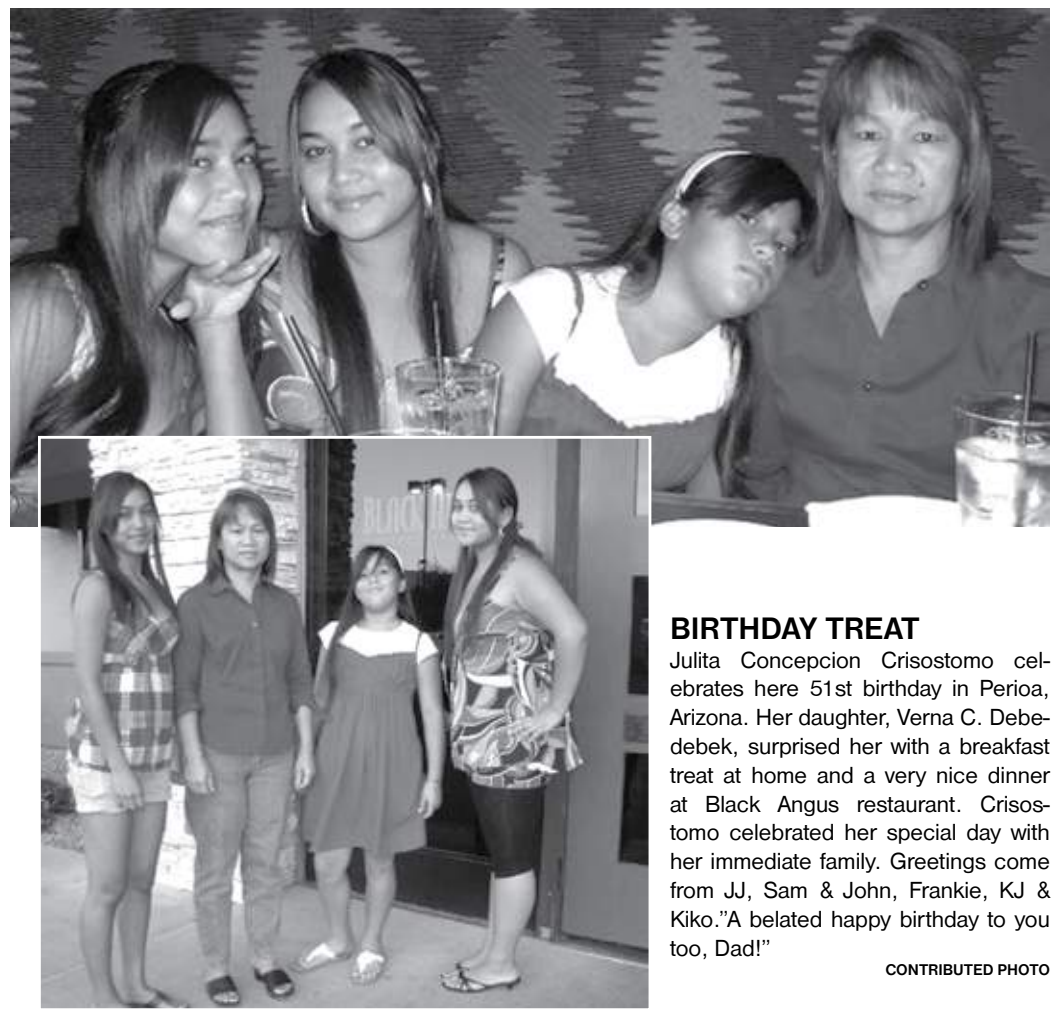
These are just some of my issues, more to come in the next publications.

PLEASE VOTE ★ BOTA

6. CRISOSTIMO, Luis Palacios

"Si Yu'us Ma'ase ★ Thank You ★ Olomwaay"

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT LUIS P. CRISOSTIMO, MARYANN DEMAPAN-CALVO, TREASURER.



BIRTHDAY TREAT

Julita Concepcion Crisostomo celebrates here 51st birthday in Perioa, Arizona. Her daughter, Verna C. Debedebek, surprised her with a breakfast treat at home and a very nice dinner at Black Angus restaurant. Crisostomo celebrated her special day with her immediate family. Greetings come from JJ, Sam & John, Frankie, KJ & Kiko."A belated happy birthday to you too, Dad!"

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Island Snapshots

MONUMENT FORUM

STEFAN SEBASTIAN

White House Council on Environmental Quality Chief James Connaughton takes questions from the community on the Bush administration's proposal to establish a national marine monument in the CNMI at a public forum Monday night.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Park Ranger Nancy Kelchner of the American Memorial Park addresses Hopwood Junior High School students about the proposed national marine monument park during a forum at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan Monday night.

BIRTHDAY BASH

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Robert D. Mojica, father of Saipan resident Wolf Mojica and former resident Robert "Moji" Mojica, celebrates his 80th birthday with a surprise party in San Francisco at Sinbad's on Pier 2 of the fabulous Embarcadero. The venue had a fantastic view of the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge. Aside from Wolf and Robert the younger and Tiara Guerrero, friends and family from Wisconsin, Georgia, Texas, Guam, and other parts of California came to help Bob celebrate this auspicious occasion. Nichole and Camille Mojica, older daughters of Wolf, helped organize the party, send out the invitations, and decorated the event. In photo are, front row from left, Cheryl, Tiara Guerrero, Camille, Karen, Robert D., Bobbie, and Kelley Johnson. Back row, Dorsey Hughes, Nicholas, Robert C., Wolf, Shannon, and Nichole.

Former Saipan residents Robert C. Mojica and Tiara Guerrero, who are now living in Fallbrook California, join family and friends in celebrating the birthday of Robert D. Mojica.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DUAL CELEBRATION

Happy Christening to Christian Glenn and a happy birthday to daddy Glen Maglaya. Both auspicious occasions were celebrated on Oct. 25, 2008. "Happy Christening to our son Christian Glenn Maglaya. We love you." Love Mommy and Daddy. "And happy, happy birthday, Daddy Glenn." Love Mommy Cindy and Tutoy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

White House Council on Environmental Quality Chief James Connaughton shakes hands with supporters of the national marine monument proposal, who lined up at the entrance of the Hyatt Regency Saipan to greet his arrival on the island over the weekend.

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Business

Asia stocks fall on profit fears; SKorea off 7 pct

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stocks fell for a second day Thursday, with South Korea's market sinking more than 7 percent, as a barrage of downbeat company forecasts deepened fears of a global recession.

But in a positive sign, most major indices pared losses in afternoon trading as some investors bought beaten down shares.

Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average tumbled 7 percent at the open but recovered some to closed down 2.5 percent at 8,460.98. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index was down 4.7 percent at 13,603 after falling more than 6 percent earlier.

South Korea's market was hit hardest. The benchmark Kospi fell nearly 10 percent at one point and closed down 7.5 percent at 1,049.71.

Asia's downward lurch followed Wall Street as hundreds of companies reported third-quarter results and issued murky forecasts this week, signs that the economic slowdown was taking a toll on balance sheets despite recent improvements in the world credit markets.

Tokyo investors were cautious ahead of the release of Japanese corporate earnings next week, including Canon Inc. on Monday and Honda Motor Co. on Tuesday. Electronics powerhouse NEC Corp. cut its earnings estimate Wednesday amid an economic downturn at home and abroad.

"Sentiment is lousy," said Dariusz Kowalczyk, chief investment strategist at CFC Seymour in Hong Kong. "Earnings are disappointing, and we're still in the process of lowering profits all across the globe."

Australia's key index pulled back more than 4 percent as slumping world commodity prices sent resource companies such as BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto Group sharply lower.

"The markets really seem to be pricing in a slowdown in growth across the globe, and that's really hurting base metals," said Matthew Lewis, a senior dealer at CMC Markets in Sydney.

Rio Tinto fell more than 14 percent while rival BHP Billiton sank more than 9 percent.

Overnight in New York, the Dow fell 514.45, or 5.69 percent, to 8,519.21, after being down as much as 698 points in the final half hour of trading. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was the worst performer among the major indexes with a 6.1 percent drop that left it at its lowest level since April 2003.

Oil rebounded modestly after plummeting more than $5 overnight to settle below $67 a barrel near 16-month lows. In Asian trade Thursday, light, sweet crude for December delivery was trading hands at $67.18, up 43 cents.

In currencies, the dollars was little changed at 97.73 yen from 97.70 late Wednesday in New York.

In Hong Kong, the territory's interbank offered rate, also known as Hibor, for three-month loans rose slighty to 3.24 from 3.14 after falling in recent days.

AP

A TV cameraman carries his camera in front of a large screen displaying stock price at the Korea Stock Exchange in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2008.

Chrysler executive downplays talk company for sale

DETROIT (AP)—Reports that Chrysler LLC is being shopped for sale by its owners are just speculation, a top Chrysler executive said Wednesday night.

Vice Chairman and President Jim Press said Chrysler would "be here," saying he had confidence in the company.

Press

"There's not a lot of reason to talk about mergers and things like that because it's all speculation. We've been doing fine," he told reporters after speaking to a Society of Automotive Engineers' conference on vehicle electronics.

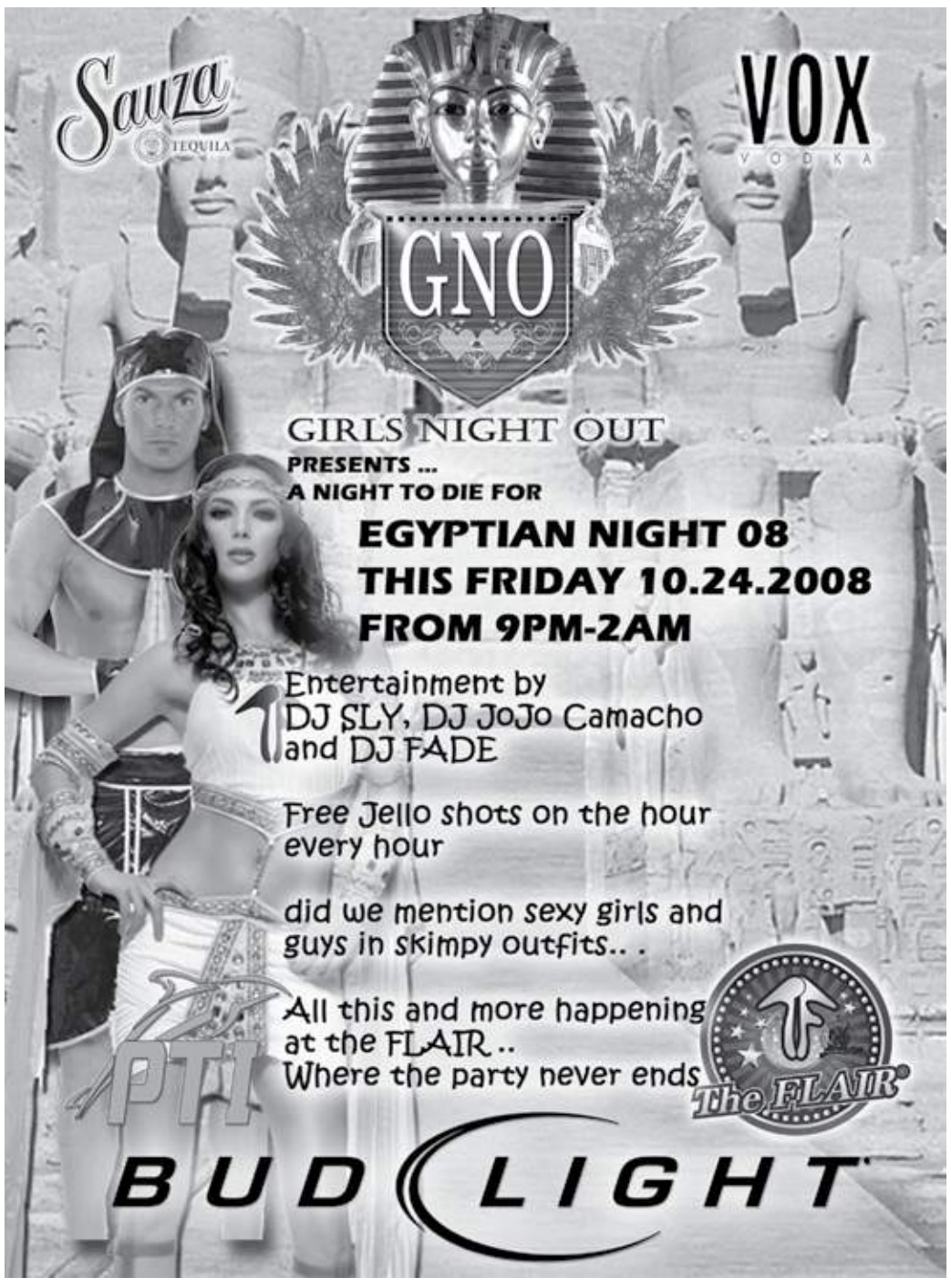
People familiar with the talks have told The Associated Press that Chrysler's owners are talking to General Motors Corp., the combined Nissan Motor Co.-Renault SA, and others about a possible sale or merger. The people have asked not to be identified because the talks are private.

During his speech, Press said there was no reason for concern.

"The best thing we can do is focus on our business at hand and try to match and beat the competitors," he said, telling the engineers that they would lead the U.S. auto industry out of its slump.

Chrysler, he said, has changed its business model by reducing the size of the company to match sales, stopping a high level of negative cash flow and stabilizing its finances for the company to go forward.

"Maybe that's one of the reasons why a lot of people have been smelling around the Chrysler vault lately, I don't know," he said.



Wachovia 3Q loss paves way for Wells deal

NEW YORK (AP)—How could a $24 billion loss possibly be good news? When it comes from Wachovia as an effort to primp itself for its acquisition by Wells Fargo.

Wachovia Corp.'s staggering loss for the third quarter resulted primarily because it wrote down the value of intangible assets by almost $19 billion and built up its loan loss reserves by $4.8 billion, moves that seemed to please its suitor.

"It was prudent for Wachovia to put these losses behind them," said Wells Fargo Chief Financial Officer Howard Atkins in a release. "The asset write-downs, reserve build, and other items are consistent with our acquisition assumptions."

The moves tidy up Wachovia's balance sheet so that it is more in line with that of the more conservative Wells Fargo, analysts said. At the same time, Wells Fargo can use the losses reported by Wachovia to shelter years of profits after it acquires the Charlotte, N.C.-based bank.

Late last month, the Internal Revenue Service issued a surprise ruling that boosts banks' ability to offset the losses from loans and other bad debts held by banks they acquire. The guidance allows banks to take larger tax write-offs against future profits and makes the bargain-basement $14 billion all-stock Wachovia deal all the more attractive for San Francisco-based Wells Fargo.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Drugmakers post lower third-quarter net income

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Drugmakers Merck & Co., Wyeth and GlaxoSmithKline PLC all posted lower profits for the third quarter on Wednesday, partly due to the intensifying generic competition weighing on the entire pharmaceutical industry. And in what it characterized as an advance strike to counteract that and other problems, Merck said it will slash about 7,200 jobs, or nearly 13 percent of its workforce, in its second major restructuring in less than three years. The companies managed to meet or slightly beat analysts' expectations, in part because of benefits from currency exchange rates. But on a day in which world markets fell, their shares all did as well: Merck's dropped $1.96, or 6.5 percent, to $28.01; Glaxo's fell $1.21, or 3.2 percent, to $36.63, and Wyeth's fell $3.72, or 10.7 percent, to $31.06. Analysts said the Wyeth drop was mainly because of news that a promising Alzheimer's drug could be delayed.

Amazon.com profit soars but outlook and stock down

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon.com Inc. said Wednesday that its profit climbed 48 percent in the third quarter, but the company reduced its full-year sales outlook, showing that the online retailer cannot escape the weak economy. Its shares dived in after-hours trading. Chief Financial Officer Tom Szkutak, speaking on a conference call with analysts, said the company experienced slower growth rates near the end of the third quarter, coinciding with the onset of recent turmoil in global financial markets. Amazon said it now anticipates full-year revenue of $18.46 billion to $19.46 billion, below the $19.52 billion that analysts polled by Thomson Reuters were expecting. In July, Amazon had predicted 2008 sales of $19.35 billion to $20.10 billion.

When you work with micromanagers and procrastinators

By LILY GARCIA
Special to The Washington Post

Garcia, whose column regularly appears on WashingtonPost.com, has offered employment law and human resources advice to companies of all sizes for 10 years.

Q. I frequently work with a project director who is a great analyst and a nice person, but he feels the need to be in control of his projects. He doesn't have time to do everything, so he delegates, but he still needs to know what's going on. He doesn't micromanage every decision I make but will sometimes micromanage the overall process.

How do I either politely get this project director to back off or learn from his tendency to micromanage?

A. It's not you, as the saying goes, it's him. He probably trusts you as much as he is capable of trusting anyone. Yet, his need to control the process to ensure that nothing goes wrong overwhelms his capacity to delegate.

To some extent, all type-A overachievers harbor anxiety about ceding control of work to someone else. I recall a graduate school classmate who lived by the words, "If you want something done right, you have to do it yourself." As chief editor of a scholarly journal, this meant line-editing every article and sleeping very little. He pulled it off, but he was stretched to his limits. Astute managers understand that there is considerable power in being able to let go because it can expand your reach and your ability to get things done. The key is to hire good people, train them well, and trust them to perform.

Your project director has yet to learn this lesson, and for good reason. Like my schoolmate, he has probably achieved excellent results by controlling projects as much as possible. He has not reached the point at which his style starts to limit achievement.

What will make the greatest difference in your project director's approach to you is your consistently thorough, timely and error-free work. Over time, his grip on the process will probably loosen. However, I do not think you can realistically expect someone like him to let go to the point that you feel that you have room for autonomy and growth.

If you find that you can no longer function in the situation, I suggest you speak with your immediate supervisor about the project director's style and request to be assigned to different project director, if possible.

Q. About six months ago I took a new job—and a 50 percent pay cut—to work a regular nine-to-five day. I share an unusual background with one of my colleagues, and our employer has us work together on all projects that require that expertise. This colleague always seems to find (or create) some disaster that causes her to rush, work late, and generally get into a tizzy. She thinks this is the inevitable nature of our work. I disagree: I have never needed to work late to complete my share well and on time.

However, because we produce a joint product, her work style has resulted in short deadlines, last-minute rushes and late nights for me. She also takes credit for working all night to solve "emergencies," and no one knows the subject well enough to disagree. How can I distance myself from her time-management issues?

A. Rather than distancing yourself from your colleague's time-management issues, address them head on. You are long overdue for a talk about how to jointly manage your workload and, more specifically, how to organize and plan so you do not find yourself in a last-minute frenzy.

That you were willing to take a significant pay cut in exchange for a saner pace of work tells me that you value order and efficiency over variety and excitement. Your colleague seems to thrive under pressure. She is creating these artificial emergencies not only as a means of self-promotion but also to motivate herself.

If you have consistently finished your portion of projects effectively, on time, and within the space of a nine-to-five schedule, then time management is probably one of your stronger skills. You might intuitively understand the behaviors that you must engage in to avoid rushing at the end of projects, but your colleague does not.

Explain to her that you sacrificed a great deal for the opportunity to work a livable schedule and that you would like to partner with her to ensure that your work does not encroach upon your personal time. Ask for her ideas on how to anticipate and avert time crunches. You might even offer to develop time-management tools you can both use to keep on track, such as timelines and checklists.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

The credit-card dilemma

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Credit cards are a double-edged sword: There are both pros and cons to having them, and the arguments are strong on either side.

If you want to make a major purchase such as a car or a home, you need a credit history, and that's where showing a history of on-time credit-card payments can be most helpful.

Plus, there are times when it's just plain handy to have a credit card:

■ In a flat-tire emergency by the side of the road if the tow truck won't take a check.

■ Taking advantage of sales on large items you need. The trick is to make sure the credit-card payment plus interest doesn't exceed what you would have paid for the item if you'd saved up and bought it when it wasn't on sale. The true cost of any purchases made with a credit card is the item amount plus the credit-card interest and finance charges.

■ Store returns are easier when you've put the purchase on a credit card—no waiting two weeks for the store to send you a check.

■ It's nearly impossible to make car rental or motel arrangements in advance without a credit card.

Credit cards are easy to use—and therein lies the biggest problem. The ease of pulling a credit card out of your wallet to make a purchase can lead to decisions you wouldn't make if you had to produce the cash. Even worse is if you use the convenience of credit cards to pay for everyday expenses.

Credit card debt has to be paid back with on-time monthly payments. If you don't pay at least the minimum amount, your credit score suffers (which is worse than having no payment history at all) and the balance you owe goes up as late fees are added to the balance.

Credit cards or your account information can be stolen, especially if you make online purchases. While you're limited in your liability for purchases made on a stolen card, your card information can be just one step in having your identity stolen.

If you don't have a credit card or if you're considering taking on an additional card, weigh the pros and cons before you apply—and read the fine print on the application.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

Felipe
Norita Quitugua Atalig
for U.S. Congress

a man with a clear vision and understanding of the issues that matter now.

9. Atalig Felipe Norita Quitugua

IS JUAN TUDELA LIZAMA REALLY THE ONE?

Juan T. Lizama claims he is the one who should be elected to serve as the CNMI's first non-voting delegate to the US Congress. But is he really THE ONE? In considering his qualifications every voter in the CNMI must remember:

JUAN IS THE ONE	WHO WAS SUSPENDED FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE RULES OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IN 1991
JUAN IS THE ONE	WHO CALLED THE POLICE TO COMPLAIN THAT HIS GIRLFRIEND WAS DISTURBING HIS PEACE OUTSIDE OF HIS FAMILY HOME IN 1999 AS REPORTED BY THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE
JUAN IS THE ONE	ABOUT WHOM THE CNMI SUPREME COURT SAID THAT IT IS "DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE HOW ANY JUDGE OR ATTORNEY" COULD OF RULED AS HE DID IN A CRIMINAL ACTION IN 2006, AND REVERSED HIS DECISION FOR HIS "IMPROPRIETY AND THE SEVERITY OF POTENTIAL HARM TO THE COMMONWEALTH"
JUAN IS THE ONE	WHO GAVE AWAY $1,138,500.00 BELONGING TO THE ESTATE OF ANGEL MALITE TO TWO LAWYERS THROUGH A SECRET ORDER IN 2007 WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY OVERTURNED BY THE CNMI SUPREME COURT AND WHICH LEAD TO THE TWO LAWYERS LATER INCARCERATION IN 2008
JUAN IS THE ONE	WHO AN INVESTIGATING JUDGE FOUND REASONABLE CAUSE TO BEGIN A FORMAL HEARING FOR ETHICAL VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT IN 2007 FOR HIS CONDUCT IN THE ANGEL MALITE CASE
JUAN IS THE ONE	WHO RESIGNED AS A JUDGE WITH ETHICAL CHARGES STILL PENDING IN HOPES TO BE ELECTED THE CNMI'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATE IN 2008
JUAN IS THE ONE	WHO HOPES THE VOTERS WILL FORGET ABOUT HIS PAST AND PLACE THEIR FUTURE IN HIS HANDS
JUAN T. LIZAMA:	**CAN WE AFFORD AN UNETHICAL U.S. DELEGATE?**
UNETHICAL LAWYER:	Suspended from the practice of law for multiple ethical violations by the Commonwealth Superior Court. Affirmed in part by the CNMI Supreme Court. In re Discipline of Lizama 2 N.M.I. 360 (1991)
+	
UNETHICAL JUDGE:	Investigating Judge finds cause to submit complaint of multiple violations of the Code of Judicial Ethics ethical violations in the Angel Malite case. (Still Pending)

= HONEST GOVERNMENT? — NOT!

#4 Juan Tudela Lizama Can Run for U.S. Delegate but He Can't Hide From His Past.

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Nation

McCain, Palin rip Obama over taxes in NH, Ohio

AMERICA VOTES

GREEN, Ohio (AP)—John McCain struck an anti-tax chord Wednesday in the state that launched him toward the Republican presidential nomination and in the home state of the plumber he hopes will help him reach the White House.

During rallies in New Hampshire and Ohio, the Arizona senator said Democrat Barack Obama favors taxes that will hurt the middle class and small businesses—despite Obama pledging to cut them for 95 percent of taxpayers.

"Sarah Palin and I will not raise your taxes, my friends. We want you to get wealthy," McCain told 10,000 people gathered in a football stadium near Akron, Ohio. The scene had a festive air, with those sitting in the grandstands behind the candidate dressed in T-shirts that composed the red, white and blue Ohio state flag.

■ ■ ■

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin is allowed to charge taxpayers for her children's commercial airline tickets because they represent the state wherever they go with her, the governor's aides said Wednesday.

"There's an expectation that the First Family participates in community activities," said Sharon Leighow, the governor's spokeswoman. "They are representing the First Family and the state of Alaska."

AP

Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Republican vice presidential candidate Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin speak at a rally, Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2008, at Lunken Airport in Cincinnati. Todd Palin watches at rear.

Leighow and other Palin supporters defended the GOP vice presidential candidate's use of $21,012 in state money to pay for her three daughters' flights, after The Associated Press reported the practice on Tuesday. The AP reported that often the children were not invited to the events the governor attended, but she brought them anyway and charged the government.

AP presidential poll: Race tightens in the final weeks

WASHINGTON (AP)—The presidential race tightened after the final debate, with John McCain gaining among whites and people earning less than $50,000, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll that shows McCain and Barack Obama essentially running even among likely voters in the election homestretch.

The poll, which found Obama at 44 percent and McCain at 43 percent, supports what some Republicans and Democrats privately have said in recent days: that the race narrowed after the third debate as GOP-leaning voters drifted home to their party and McCain's "Joe the plumber" analogy struck a chord.

Three weeks ago, an AP-GfK survey found that Obama had surged to a seven-point lead over McCain, lifted by voters who thought the Democrat was better suited to lead the nation through its sudden economic crisis.

The contest is still volatile, and the split among voters is apparent less than two weeks before Election Day.

"I trust McCain more, and I do feel that he has more experience in government than Obama. I don't think Obama has been around long enough," said Angela Decker, 44, of La Porte, Ind.

But Karen Judd, 58, of Middleton, Wis., said, "Obama certainly has sufficient qualifications." She said any positive feelings about McCain evaporated with "the outright lying" in TV ads and his choice of running mate Sarah Palin, who "doesn't have the correct skills."

The new AP-GfK head-to-head result is a departure from some, but not all, recent national polls.

Obama and McCain were essentially tied among likely voters in the latest George Washington University Battleground Poll, conducted by Republican strategist Ed Goeas and Democratic pollster Celinda Lake. In other surveys focusing on likely voters, a Washington Post-ABC News poll and a Wall Street Journal-NBC News survey have Obama up by 11 points, and a poll by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center has him leading by 14.

Polls are snapshots of highly fluid campaigns. In this case, there is a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points; that means Obama could be ahead by as many as 8 points or down by as many as 6.

Mount Carmel School

Royal Court Candidates

Jacqueline Doctor
Parents
Alejo & Justina Doctor

Rosalia Pangelinan
Parents
Frankie & Catherine Pangelinan

Asia Raulerson
Parents
John & Pattana Raulerson

Janika Taimanao
Parents
Francis & Frances Taimanao

Issa Wabol
Parents
Juan & Daisy Wabol

Christopher Cabrera
Grandparents & Parent
Ben & Amelia Tejeran & Carmel Cabrera

Justin O'campo
Parent
Marida Pensader

Antonino Santos
Parents
Antonino & Judy Santos

Raffle Prizes
Grand Prize
$1,000.00

1st Prize	$500.00
2nd Prize	$400.00
3rd Prize	$300.00
4th Prize	$300.00
5th Prize	$200.00
6th Prize	$200.00
7th Prize	$100.00
8th Prize	$100.00
9th Prize	$100.00
10th Prize	$100.00

Drawing will be held on Wednesday, November 26, at Mount Carmel School. You need not be present to win.

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Food allergies increasing in US kids, study says

ATLANTA (AP)—Food allergies in American children seem to be on the rise, now affecting about 3 million kids, according to the first federal study of the problem.

Experts said that might be because parents are more aware and quicker to have their kids checked out by a doctor.

About 1 in 26 children had food allergies last year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Wednesday. That's up from 1 in 30 kids in 1997.

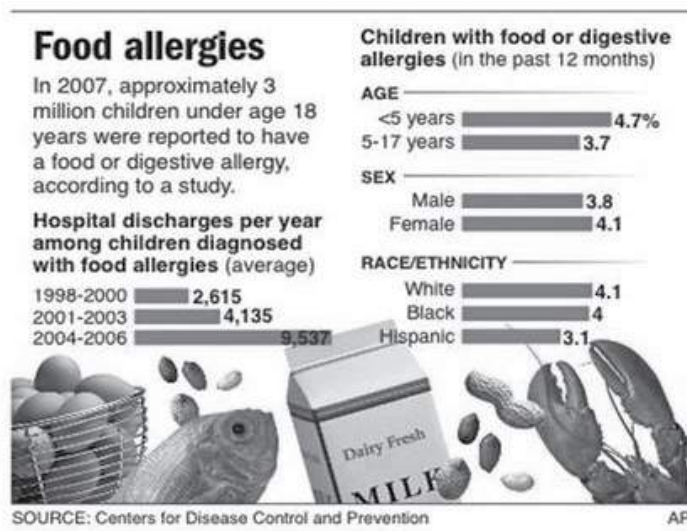
The 18 percent increase is significant enough to be considered more than a statistical blip, said Amy Branum of the CDC, the study's lead author.

Nobody knows for sure what's driving the increase. A doubling in peanut allergies—noted in earlier studies—is one factor, some experts said. Also, children seems to be taking longer to outgrow milk and egg allergies than they did in decades past.

But also figuring into the equation are parents and doctors who are more likely to consider food as the trigger for symptoms like vomiting, skin rashes and breathing problems.

"A couple of decades ago, it was not uncommon to have kids sick all the time and we just said 'They have a weak stomach' or 'They're sickly,'" said Anne Munoz-Furlong, chief executive of the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network, a Virginia-based advocacy organization.

Parents today are quicker to take their kids to specialists to check out the possibility of food allergies, said Munoz-Furlong, who founded the nonprofit in 1991.


Food allergies
In 2007, approximately 3 million children under age 18 years were reported to have a food or digestive allergy, according to a study.
Hospital discharges per year among children diagnosed with food allergies (average)
1998-2000 2,615
2001-2003 4,135
2004-2006 9,537
Children with food or digestive allergies (in the past 12 months)
AGE
<5 years 4.7%
5-17 years 3.7
SEX
Male 3.8
Female 4.1
RACE/ETHNICITY
White 4.1
Black 4
Hispanic 3.1
Dairy Fresh
MILK
SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
AP

The CDC results came from an in-person, door-to-door survey in 2007 of the households of 9,500 U.S. children under age 18.

When asked if a child in the house had any kind of food allergy in the previous 12 months, about 4 percent said yes. The parents were not asked if a doctor had made the diagnosis, and no medical records were checked. Some parents may not know the difference between immune system-based food allergies and digestive disorders like lactose intolerance, so it's possible the study's findings are a bit off, Branum said.

However, the study's results mirror older national estimates that were extrapolated from smaller, more intensive studies, said Dr. Hugh Sampson, a food allergy researcher at the Mount Sinai School of medicine.

ACROSS THE NATION

5 dead when fishing boat sinks off Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Four crew members of a fishing boat were plucked alive from a life raft in frigid, stormy seas Wednesday, hours after their vessel was reported in distress, a Coast Guard spokesman says. Five crew members died, and two remained missing. A search continued for the remaining two crew members of the Katmai, a 93-foot fish processor based on Alaska's Kodiak island, Coast Guard Petty Officer Levi Read said. Read said two more deceased crew members were located Wednesday night by a fishing vessel assisting the Coast Guard in the search. Three bodies were recovered earlier. The water was 43 degrees when rescuers hauled the survivors out of the raft, Read said. He couldn't speculate on how long they were in the raft because it was not known exactly when they abandoned their boat. Still, he said, several factors helped them survive. "That takes a lot of fortitude and a lot of heart," Read said. Their survival suits, their physical condition, and an effort to keep one another semi-warm and awake all could have helped them endure, he said. The four survivors were discovered in the raft near the Amchitka Pass, which links the Bering Sea to the Pacific Ocean about 1,400 miles southwest of Anchorage.

Jurors in Fort Dix case are shown violent videos

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)—Jurors hearing the case of five men accused of planning an attack on a New Jersey Army base saw two types of videos Wednesday as prosecutors tried to show that the men were inspired by, and hoped to mimic, al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden. One video—clearly homemade—shows men haphazardly firing guns on an overcast winter day in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains. Others—slickly produced and in Arabic—depicted American troops in the deserts of Iraq falling to snipers' bullets and Humvees exploding. Prosecutors do not claim that the defendants—all foreign-born Muslims in their 20s who lived in suburban New Jersey—were connected with any overseas terrorist groups. But they argue that were the defendants not arrested in May 2007, they would have tried to carry out an attack on Fort Dix, where U.S. troops train for deployments to Iraq.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: 2008-CDA-08-RFP

CLOSING DATE: Friday, October 31, 2008 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FY2009 & 2010 FOR THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY & THE NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/OSCAR C. CAMACHO
Acting, CEO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
RFQ09-DOC-004

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2008 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

"ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFQ MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. MICHAEL ADA, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE VIA E-MAIL TO depcommerce.ada@gmail.com OR FAX TO (670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, OCTOBER 29, 2008.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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• Collect Bud Bucks in every Bud Family 12pk to bid on Exciting Bud Gear!
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• Be on the Lookout for "Double Bud Buck" Days!
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RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS
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Asia

5 dead in suspected US missile strike in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Suspected U.S. missiles struck a Taliban-linked school in northwest Pakistan on Thursday, killing five people in an apparent sign of U.S. frustration with the country's anti-terror efforts, intelligence officials said.

The strike came hours after Parliament warned against "incursions" on Pakistani soil in a resolution that also called for reviewing the national security strategy and making dialogue with militants the highest priority.

Nuclear-armed Pakistan is also in the midst of an economic crisis brought on by high fuel prices, dwindling foreign investment, soaring inflation and militant violence.

Late on Wednesday, the government formally requested financial help from the International Monetary Fund to avoid a possible meltdown, a decision that could cost the government political support.

The suspected U.S. missiles hit the religious school on the outskirts of Miran Shah, the main town in the militant-infested North Waziristan region, four intelligence officials said.

Relying on informants and agents in the area, two officials said at least five people were killed and two wounded.

The religious school belonged to a local pro-Taliban cleric, the intelligence officials said. The cleric has been linked to veteran Taliban commander Jalaluddin Haqqani, considered a top foe of the United States, they said.

The intelligence officials gave the information on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Militants in the northwest are blamed for rising attacks on U.S. and NATO forces in neighboring Afghanistan as well as surging suicide attacks within Pakistan.

The cross-border missile attacks have angered many Pakistani lawmakers and the pro-U.S. government has protested them as violations of the country's sovereignty.

UN warns millions could starve in North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The U.N. food agency has warned that millions of North Koreans could face starvation, but a South Korean official said Thursday that Seoul has not decided whether to respond to a request for food aid to the communist country.

Around 2.7 million people on North Korea's west coast will run out of food in October, the World Food Program said in a report released on Tuesday.

North Korea has relied on aid to help feed its 23 million people since natural disasters and mismanagement devastated its centrally controlled economy in the mid-1990s. Famine is believed to have killed 2 million people. The country's food shortage has worsened this year following devastating floods in 2007.

The WFP also said the food shortages have especially affected urban households in areas with low industrial activity due to higher food prices, reductions in public food rations and lower employment.

The food shortage warning comes as the North has ratcheted up its hostile rhetoric against South Korea and its president amid fraying ties.

In August, the WFP asked South Korea to provide emergency aid to North Korea to help it avert a food crisis, but Seoul has not yet responded.

The South Korean government said it would not tie food aid to North Korea's nuclear disarmament, but it also said public opinion was a consideration in deciding whether to send aid.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

BRADLEY JOHN TOVES ATALIG aka LARRY JOHN TOVES ATALIG and NANETTE E. ATALIG (collectively "Trustor"), on or about September 20, 2001, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 2, 2001, under Document No. 01-2166 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 347 R 96, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 827 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 347 R 07, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4282, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on November 14, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$52,680.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **November 13, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than November 13, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$52,680.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

MARINA A. BAUTISTA and LORETO L. BAUTISTA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about November 15, 1999, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 15, 1999, under Document No. 99-2777 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 972, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 781 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 011 G 18, DATED DECEMBER 3, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4286, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **November 14, 2008**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$93,680.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **November 13, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than November 13, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$93,680.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

NOVA ANN T. QUITUGUA and RAY J. TAITAGUE (collectively "Trustor"), on or about September 24, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on September 28, 1998, under Document No. 98-3008 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 330 R 232, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 924 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 330 R 05, DATED MARCH 13, 1992, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 92-861, DATED MARCH 16, 1992, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **November 14, 2008**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$69,890.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **November 13, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than November 13, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$69,890.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

VICENTE W. KAIPAT and LEONILA S. KAIPAT (collectively "Trustor"), on or about April 21, 1994, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation formerly known as Marianas Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on May 10, 1994, under Document No. 94-1199 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 005 I 330, containing an area of 1,109 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's Official Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 07, dated September 8, 1982, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 18433, dated September 30, 1983 the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its 2nd Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 5, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **November 14, 2008**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$29,730.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **November 13, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than November 13, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$29,730.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

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ASIAN BRIEFS

UN urges improved food safety for China

BEIJING (AP)—China can boost public trust badly shaken by a spate of food safety scandals, including tainted formula that gave thousands of babies painful kidney stones, by enacting stricter laws and replacing its patchwork surveillance system, the U.N. said Wednesday. The U.N. also recommended other changes, including more funding and training for food inspectors, in a 30-page paper released a day before the central government is to review its draft law on food safety. The paper follows a scandal over tainted milk powder. In September, authorities announced they had found the industrial chemical melamine, which is used to make plastics and fertilizer, in infant formula. The substance was reportedly added to boost protein levels. The deaths of four babies have been linked to the contamination and some 54,000 children have been sickened. "The national system needs urgent review and revision," U.N. Resident Coordinator in China Khalid Malik said at a press conference in Beijing where the paper was made public.

3 US coalition troops killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A roadside bomb killed three U.S. coalition members in western Afghanistan, while 18 Taliban fighters died in clashes elsewhere in the country, officials said Thursday. The bomb that struck the U.S. coalition vehicle Wednesday also wounded another coalition member, the U.S. military said in a statement. It did not provide the exact location of the attack or the nationalities of the victims. Most coalition members are American. Taliban militants regularly target Afghan, U.S. and other foreign soldiers in their campaign to weaken the government of President Hamid Karzai and its Western backers. The number of insurgent attacks has risen 30 percent this year compared to 2007. In the southern Uruzgan province, meanwhile, a U.S. coalition airstrike killed 15 militants Wednesday, including a Taliban commander, another coalition statement said. The militants were killed near a riverbed in Deh Rawood district, away from the local villages, the statement said.

18 killed in explosion in Indian fireworks factory

JAIPUR, India (AP)—A huge explosion Thursday at an illegal fireworks factory killed 18 people in western India, including 10 children, police said. The blast, which occurred before dawn, blew apart the workshop set up in a home in a slum in the town of Deeg, said police chief Rohit Mahajan. Seventeen people were wounded. Mahajan said the force of the blast also brought down two neighboring homes, leading to the high death toll. Deeg is some 120 miles northwest of Jaipur, the capital of India's Rajasthan state. Thousands of illicit firework factories spring up every year in India ahead of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, when revelers fire them off in celebration. Diwali begins on Oct. 28.

World

Rice: US, Mexico to discuss drugs, world issues

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice waves as she arrives in Puerto Vallarta in the state of Jalisco, Mexico, Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2008.
AP

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico (AP)—Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says she hopes to discuss not just drug trafficking, but a host of world issues with Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Patricia Espinosa in meetings at this Pacific coast resort.

Rice, who arrived in Puerto Vallarta late Wednesday for a one-day visit to Mexico, suggested that the seat Mexico won last week on the U.N. Security Council makes it likely that more than just bilateral concerns will be discussed.

But U.S. officials acknowledged that talks are also expected to touch on the violent drug cartel turf battles that have hit Mexico in recent years, and the role played in that violence by weapons smuggled into Mexico from the United States.

The United States is expected to begin delivering soon the first installments of the $400 million in anti-drug aid for Mexico approved by Congress earlier this year as part of the Merida Initiative.

Rice said the Bush administration was still working with Congress on "letters of agreement" to implement the Merida Initiative provisions "very quickly."

"This is a national security priority for Mexico and national security priority for the United States," she said. "I think it is urgent because of the security situation."

World Bank says West Bank land prices are skyrocketing

JERUSALEM (AP)—The price of property in the West Bank is rocketing beyond the reach of most local businesses and home buyers, pushed up by a weak dollar and Israeli control of large chunks of the territory, a World Bank report said Thursday.

The 41-page paper said local government data from the commercial and political center of Ramallah indicates the value of prime downtown commercial plots has doubled each year since 2005, hitting the current average of about $372 a square foot.

Israel, citing the need to prevent Palestinian attacks inside Israel and on Jewish settlers in the West Bank, has kept large swaths of Palestinian land and roads off limits to Palestinians. It also maintains a complex network of checkpoints on roads that remain open to West Bankers.

That leaves the vast majority of Palestinians chasing land in the remaining 41 percent of the territory, which is home to at least 90 percent of the population, the World Bank said.

WORLD BRIEFS

EU says new measures needed for financial meltdown

BEIJING (AP)—The president of the European Union Commission says unprecedented measures are needed to deal with the global financial meltdown. Speaking on the eve of a 43-nation summit in China's capital, Jose Barroso said Thursday the economic turmoil would dominate discussions at the Asia-Europe Meeting. Barroso says he expects a forum to help work toward consensus in advance of a Nov. 15 meeting on the crisis in Washington. Barroso say the worst global financial crisis in 70 years required measures not seen before, including major reforms to the ways global financial institutions are regulated. Barroso told reporters at a news conference that cooperation was crucial and nations must "stick together or sink together."

Iraqi officials: Bomb kills 9 people in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide car bomber targeted an Iraqi minister during rush hour Thursday morning in Baghdad, killing at least nine people and wounding 14, officials said. The blast underscored the continued dangers facing Iraqis despite a sharp decline in violence over the past year as insurgents defy security improvements. Militants have frequently targeted Iraqi government officials. The attacker rammed the car into the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry convoy as it passed through the central Bab al-Sharji area, a ministry spokesman said. The Shiite minister, Mahmoud Mohammed al-Radhi, escaped unharmed but three of his guards were killed, spokesman Abdullah al-Lami told the al-Arabiya TV station. At least four other people were killed in addition to the guards, and 14 people were wounded, according to police and hospital officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information.

Peace Corps returns to Liberia after long absence

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—The Peace Corps will return to war-ravaged Liberia on Sunday for the first time since fighting erupted nearly two decades ago, its goal to help rebuild the West African nation's shattered education system. Liberia, founded by freed American slaves in the 19th century, has struggled to turn itself around since the brutal war ended in 2003 and President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf took office two years later. The return of the Peace Corps, which pulled out shortly after rebels invaded the country in late 1989, is a sign of confidence in Sirleaf, a Harvard-edcuated economist and Africa's first elected female head of state. "Sirleaf has done a tremendous job of bringing this country back from chaos and we want to be part of moving her country forward as rapidly as possible," Peace Corps director Ronald A. Tschetter told The Associated Press in an interview from Washington, D.C. "This is a huge step for us to go back."

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Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man to be reimbursed after mice munch on his cash

JACKSON, Mo. (AP)—A man who left about $1,000 in $20 bills in an unzipped vinyl bag on a desk at his home is expected to be reimbursed after mice mutilated the cash. The man left the cash on the desk, but misplaced it during severe weather in March. He eventually found the bag, and in August took it to First Missouri State Bank in Jackson in hopes of covering his losses. Bank manager Michelle Johns said Wednesday she and two staffers picked through rodent droppings and bird feathers in the bag and reassembled the bills. The U.S. Mint advised Johns that both sets of serial numbers printed on the bills must be complete to get reimbursement. Johns said mint officials instructed her to send the reassembled bills and the feces and feathers to them in Washington, D.C. Johns said the reassembled bills total around $1,000.

Drummer snared after alleged church break-in

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP)—Bridgeport police said they snared a 47-year-old man who broke into a local church to play the drums. Police said Michael Smith, of Weston, was driving by the Holy Ghost Deliverance Church on Monday afternoon when he spotted a drum set through its window. He was charged with criminal trespass and breach of peace after allegedly breaking into the church, where officers found him in a spirited solo after the church's alarm system went off. Smith is scheduled for arraignment Nov. 5 in Bridgeport Superior Court. A telephone listing was not available for him.

Clean Team supervisor charged with littering

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Authorities said a supervisor for Tampa's initiative to keep its downtown area clean has been charged with felony littering. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office reported that a 37-year-old man who works for the Tampa Downtown Partnership's Clean Team, has been dumping lawn debris and miscellaneous household items on various streets in a Gibsonton subdivision since September. Besides supervising Tampa's Clean Team, the man owns a lawn care business. Authorities say the man was charged with three counts of felony littering on Monday and was later released on $6,000 bail.

Charge dropped against woman in football dispute

BLUE ASH, Ohio (AP)—A prosecutor has dropped a charge of petty theft against an 89-year-old suburban Cincinnati woman accused of refusing to return a neighbor kid's football that landed in her yard. Blue Ash Prosecutor Mark Arnzen said Wednesday that there was insufficient culpability to prosecute Edna Jester of Blue Ash, who was arrested last week. Police say a child's father complained that Jester kept the football. Police Capt. James Schaffer says there has been an ongoing dispute in the neighborhood over kids' balls landing in the woman's yard. Since her arrest, Jester has handled a barrage of media calls and an invitation to appear on "Dr. Phil." Jester says she might consider that, if she's feeling up to it. The maximum penalty for a petty theft conviction in Ohio is six months in jail and a fine of up to $1,000.

Robbery suspect escapes with cash, leaves thumb

WASHINGTON (AP)—Police said a man suspected in an armed robbery at an alleged brothel in Washington's Columbia Heights neighborhood left some evidence at the scene - his thumb. Police say a 22-year-old man and an accomplice made off with hundreds of dollars in cash in the Oct. 11 raid. According to charging documents, one of the victims took control of the suspect's silver machete and hacked off his right thumb. About two hours after the robbery, a nine-fingered man went to an emergency room. Police caught up with him and brought the severed thumb to the hospital. According to an arrest affidavit, a doctor told police the thumb "fits like a puzzle piece." The man was transferred to a Baltimore hospital to have it reattached. On Tuesday, a judge ordered the Hyattsville, Md., man held without bond.

Woman survives blast probably started by TV remote

BILLINGS, Mo. (AP)—Authorities in southwest Missouri say a TV remote control probably triggered an explosion that destroyed a Christian County home on Tuesday morning. The only person in the home at the time, Cindy Curry, 66, was blown outside but had only minor injuries. Firefighters said it's amazing she survived at all. Curry's husband, Jerry, said he smelled propane gas in the 10-year-old house late Monday. But the smell was gone Tuesday morning, so he went out to have breakfast with friends. His wife then turned on the TV, and Billings Fire Chief Henry Bos said it appears the remote control ignited propane still in the house. The couple lost two of their dogs and a bird.

Man charged with exposing himself to toll worker

SANFORD, Fla. (AP)—Authorities say an man driving through a toll plaza exposed himself to a toll worker on two separate occasions. Seminole County deputies said a 39-year-old man was arrested at his home Tuesday morning. A woman working at the Lake Jesup toll plaza on State Road 417 called the sheriff's office last week to report that a motorist had not been wearing pants when she went to hand him his change. She told deputies the same thing had happened about a week earlier. The man was charged with two counts of exposure of sexual organs and was later released on $5,000 bail.

Man brandishes BB gun after stealing deodorant

DANIA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Authorities said a man used a BB gun to make his getaway after stealing deodorant from a Dania Beach supermarket on Monday afternoon. Publix employees told Broward deputies that they saw two men shoplifting deodorant spray Monday afternoon. A manager caught up with a 23-year-old man at a store next door. When the manager asked the man to return the deodorant, authorities say he pulled what looked like a black handgun. Assuming it was a real gun, deputies closed off a nearby apartment complex and put a school on lock down. They also called in a helicopter and dogs to help with the search. They eventually found the man, who still had the deodorant and BB gun. The man was charged with robbery with weapon and was being held on $50,000 bail.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

JUAN F. BARCINAS and BARBARA DLC. EVANGELISTA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about June 14, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 16, 1983, under Document No. 17490 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT 001 T 52, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 001 T 00, DATED AUGUST 14, 1969, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 1,486 SQUARE METERS.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **November 14, 2008**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$117,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **November 13, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than November 13, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$117,150.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

CELINA M. SETEFANO and VILIAMI S. SETEFANO (collectively "Trustor"), on or about August 2, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on August 3, 1983, under Document No. 17659 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 002 F 67, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 1,230 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 002 F 00, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 691, ON THE 1ST DAY OF MARCH, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **November 14, 2008**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$52,940.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **November 13, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than November 13, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$52,940.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

HERMAN M. GUERRERO aka Herman M. Deleon Guerrero and Asunta T. Guerrero aka Asunta T. Deleon Guerrero (collectively "Trustor"), on or about July 18, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on July 18, 1983, under Document No. 17740 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Tract number 20472-9, and containing an area of 926 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat number 2064/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as document number 14154, on the 26th day of March, 1982.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 5, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on November 14, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$64,730.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **November 13, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than November 13, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$64,730.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

JOSE A. CEPEDA and JULIA A. CEPEDA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about July 20, 1984, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on July 20, 1984, under Document No. 84-1301 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 017 H 18 (FORMERLY BLOCK 66 LOT 3) AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 017 H 00 DATED FEBRUARY 17, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its 2nd Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **November 14, 2008**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$81,150.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **November 13, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than November 13, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$81,150.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****

Science & Technology

Startup makes picture messaging a safety tool

NEW YORK (AP)—"Don't try to hurt me—I've deposited a letter with my lawyer. If he doesn't hear from me within 24 hours, he will mail it to the police. It details all your murky dealings."

That hard-boiled plot device from detective novels and movies is coming to life in a free service called My Mobile Witness from a startup in Pittsburgh.

It works like this: When you're in a situation you're uneasy about—say you're letting a stranger into the house—snap a picture of the person with your phone and message it to My Mobile Witness. Or just tap out a text message. My Mobile Witness time-stamps and stores the message, and if you end up getting into trouble, it gives law enforcement access to your "vault" of messages.

The main idea is that if a situation turns ugly, you can let the threatening person know that "Hey, I just took and sent a picture of your face/car/license plate to a place where the police will find it." Just like in the movies, but with a picture message instead of a letter. Threats will do no good—the sender can't retrieve the message or erase it from My Mobile Witness' vault.

Police can access the vault without a subpoena or court order if they go through "Fusion Centers" that coordinate state law enforcement efforts.

The founders, Marcus Anthony and Scott Bullens, came up with the idea when they bought a real-estate firm and became concerned with the safety of their agents. They made it a policy that their employees had to take pictures of the clients they were meeting and send them to the office.

Ron Knight, a former FBI agent who's a security consultant for the startup, cautioned that the service is no replacement for a 911 call in an immediately threatening situation.

The service is free for users, but the firm says it may e-mail them once or twice a month with messages from sponsors.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Q: How can I keep track of the security fixes for all the software that Windows Update doesn't cover, like my Internet plug-ins and media players?

A: Secunia, a security developer in Copenhagen, provides a free tool at its Web site that can scan a Windows PC's add-on software for insecure or obsolete versions.

Visit secunia.com/vulnerability_scanning/online, click to allow this page's Java software to run, and in a minute or so, that page should list applications needing an update with a red X and a link to download their latest release. It will list current applications with a green checkmark.

This online scanner covers about 70 applications. For a more thorough inventory—or if you have trouble running this tool through your browser—you can download Secunia's free Personal Software Inspector (secunia.com/vulnerability_scanning/personal/), which the company says covers more than 70,000 titles.

■ ■ ■

Q: When I called to cancel my Fios order after Verizon's contractors made a mess of my lawn, I told the representative I would record the call. He said he wouldn't speak to me and could only have a "security manager" call back—which has yet to happen.

A: This seems a somewhat extreme reaction to bad customer service, but I can understand the impulse.

The reader said that as a Virginia resident, he can record a phone call without the other party's consent. He also noted that Verizon already warns callers that it may record their conversations with its reps.

So what went wrong here? Verizon spokesman Harry Mitchell responded in an e-mail that the representative made a mistake. "While our service rep was within his or her rights to decline to be recorded in such a fashion, he or she should have had a supervisor speak with you at that time," he wrote.

MySpace makes bid for socializing on Google phone

NEW YORK (AP)—Social networks MySpace and Facebook have already courted iPhone users with programs that let people stay connected on the Apple Inc. smart phone. Now MySpace is first to unveil one for owners of the just-released G1 phone powered by Google Inc.'s Android operating system.

News Corp.-owned MySpace announced a mobile application for the G1 this week that can be downloaded wirelessly to the device through the Google-run Android Market. The Market is stocked with add-on programs and games built by third-party developers.

The G1 is made by Taiwan's HTC Corp. and released Wednesday by T-Mobile in the U.S. The phone costs $179 with a two-year contract.

MySpace's Android application is its second for a device sold by T-Mobile - there is also one for the Sidekick - and it lets G1 users do many of the same things they can do from a desktop computer, like look at profiles and photos on MySpace. In addition, the application lets G1 users quickly upload photos from the phone to their MySpace profiles.

There's no mobile Facebook program for the Android Market, and a Facebook spokeswoman said the company had nothing to say on the subject. However, if history is any indicator, something could be forthcoming: Facebook has developed applications for the iPhone and Research In Motion Ltd.'s BlackBerry.

Comcast startles customers with cyberteam help

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jordan Goddard was irritated when his Internet access started fading in and out. It had been down for hours the day before. When his cable TV went out too, he fired up his blog.

"Dear Comcast," the West Virginia University senior wrote. "You suck."

When a member of Comcast Corp.'s new cyberteam called a few days later, Goddard assumed the company was threatening a lawsuit. But the worker was calling to apologize and offer help. Goddard was amazed.

"That's honestly the first company that contacted me like that without me going to them first," Goddard said.

Known for ranking at or near the bottom of its industry in customer service surveys, Comcast formed a team last winter of seven employees at its Philadelphia headquarters who scour Web postings, which are public, for complaints and try to resolve them.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
IFB09-GOV-007

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 05, 2008 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"PROCUREMENT OF EXPLORATORY DRILLING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR THE CNMI WATER TASK FORCE"

GOVERNOR BENIGNO R. FITIAL AND LT. GOVERNOR TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ, THROUGH THE CNMI WATER TASK FORCE, ARE SOLICITING SEALED BIDS FROM QUALIFIED FIRMS OR INDIVIDUALS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF EXPLORATORY DRILLING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES TO CONDUCT EXPLORATORY WELL DRILLING ON SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

THE PROCUREMENT SPECIFICATIONS AND SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN ON OR AFTER **OCTOBER 22, 2008.**

ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BID SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MR. THOMAS S. SALAS, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, VIA E-MAIL AT salasthomas@gmail.com NO LATER THAT **2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 03, 2008.**

THE BIDDING PROCEDURES SHALL BE INN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS. PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED. IT MUST BE CLAIMED AT THE TIME OF BID SUBMISSION WITH ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENT ATTACHED.

/s/ BENIGNO R. FITIAL
GOVERNOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

CARMENT T. ANDON and SAMUEL M. ANDON (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 22, 2004, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 2, 2004, under Document No. 04-2544 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 308, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 797 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 011 G 06, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4414, DATED DECEMBER 16, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its 2nd Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on November 14, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$61,150.00.** Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **November 13, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than November 13, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$61,150.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

ELOY T. DELA CRUZ and SHIRLEY ANN R. DELA CRUZ (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 23, 2002, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 29, 2002, under Document No. 02-2209 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 002 G 263, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1904, dated May 14, 1990, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its 2nd Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 5, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on November 14, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$57,730.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **November 13, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than November 13, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$57,730.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

BLAS T. MAGOFNA ("Trustor"), on or about January 12, 1995, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on January 20, 1995, under Document No. 95-143 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 002 B 12, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 737 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 5014/94, DATED FEBRUARY 7, 1994, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 94-396, DATED FEBRUARY 10, 1994, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **November 14, 2008**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$108,660.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **November 13, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than November 13, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$108,660.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2008.

By: /s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

*****NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency*****

Life & Style

They're having 'fun' on 'Fox & Friends'

By MATEA GOLD
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK—It was just after 7 a.m. on the set of "Fox & Friends," but the studio already looked like the scene of a college all-nighter. Papers and blue index cards littered the couch next to the three co-hosts, and the mood resembled the giddy intensity produced by sleeplessness and large doses of caffeine.

Co-host Brian Kilmeade, discussing Sen. John McCain's debate performance, noted that he might be "a man of substance with a career and a resume, but he is not a master—a master debater."

Kilmeade broke into a grin as he realized how close he came to accidentally saying something else.

"We just gave the people who are reading the subtitles quite a shock," said co-host Steve Doocy, shaking with laughter.

"Master. Debater," Kilmeade repeated carefully, trying not to crack up.

The loose atmosphere is the signature characteristic of "Fox & Friends," the freewheeling program on Fox News that dominates the morning competition on cable. The hosts' political observations and pungent personal comments have stirred controversy, drawing detractors even as they have raised the show's profile.

"Here you have an ability to do stuff, and then they can always rein you in," Kilmeade said after the program. "But I know I'm not going to get reprimanded."

"Fox & Friends" has attracted more than 1.2 million viewers on average so far this month, topping the combined viewership of CNN's "American Morning" and MSNBC's "Morning Joe." And in 16 major local markets, including Los Angeles, the cable program gets a bigger audience than CBS's "The Early Show," even though it airs from 3 to 6 a.m. on the West Coast.

Co-host Gretchen Carlson, who co-anchored the Saturday edition of "The Early Show" before joining Fox News, that producers there would cut her off when she tried to improvise.

Now, "when we make a mistake reading the news headlines, whereas at a (broadcast) network you'd probably get fired, instead, we're like, 'Eh, we screwed up,'" she said. "And I think that's disarming."

Essentially three hours of ad-libbed banter, "Fox & Friends" has generated a rich supply of YouTube moments, especially during the charged political season.

Often, it's the guests who are unpredictable: Friday, liberal radio host Ed Schultz walked off the show in exasperation after conservative radio host Steve Malzberg interrupted his defense of Sen. Barack Obama's tax-cut plan.

But the "Fox & Friends" hosts also have produced controversy on their own. Last year, they triggered a rare public admonishment from network executives after discussing an article in a conservative magazine that claimed Obama had attended a madrassa in Indonesia as a child.

The report was quickly discredited and John Moody, Fox News' executive vice president of news editorial, said at the time that they should not have reported the piece without confirming its accuracy.

For many Democrats, the incident cemented the program's right-leaning reputation, a charge the hosts reject.

"You have to remember that the mainstream media is not fair and balanced," said Carlson, who, like her co-hosts, said she's a political independent. "I've worked there. And so we maybe look a little different, because we're talking about issues that nobody else is."

Lately, "Fox & Friends" has focused on Obama's association with onetime anti-government radical William Ayers and questionable voter registrations by the community group ACORN, which has endorsed Obama. Both stories dominated the program during the last week, underscored by on-screen captions such as "Stealing the Election? McCain Calls Obama Out Over ACORN" and "Up in the Ayers: Will Mac Mention Obama Terror Ties?"

"The notion of 'Fox & Friends' being 'fair and balanced' is about as credible as fried chicken being low-fat," said Stephanie Cutter, chief of staff to Michelle Obama, after a tense on-air exchange with the hosts Thursday about ACORN.

The anchors insist they're tough on both presidential candidates. After interviewing Cutter, they noted, they asked McCain campaign manager Rick Davis about McCain's praise for ACORN in 2006.

"People know that we're going to cover both points of view," Carlson said.

The hosts embrace the program's light approach—"Would you want to watch some boring old stodgy newscast?" asked Carlson—but also defend their news chops.

"When we're interviewing Senator Obama, I don't break into song," Kilmeade said. "When we're interviewing Senator McCain, I don't tickle him. We're going to be serious at the right time."

On a recent show, they alternated between intense discussions of the campaign and teasing antics. After Kilmeade scribbled something on a piece of paper that he couldn't say on the air, Doocy stuffed the paper in his mouth.

Kilmeade noted that comedy programs such as "The Daily Show" often poke fun at "Fox & Friends," not realizing that the hosts are joking themselves.

"I mean, that's the way we are in real life," he said, gesturing to his co-hosts. "He's sarcastic, I'm sarcastic, Gretchen's got an attitude. They think they have the market cornered on humor, like we couldn't possibly be humorous on purpose."

Added Doocy: "We take the news seriously, but we don't take ourselves seriously."

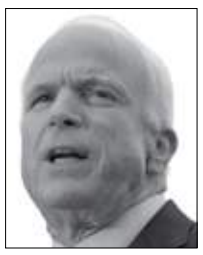
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Co-hosts Steve Doocy, left, Gretchen Carlson and Brian Kilmeade talk about (and sometimes make) news on "Fox & Friends," Fox News' morning show.

McCain's negative coverage up as numbers go down

NEW YORK (AP)—John McCain may long for the days when Barack Obama got the lion's share of the media attention: Coverage of the Republican candidate has been overwhelmingly negative since the conventions ended, a study released Wednesday found.

The Project for Excellence in Journalism's report illustrates how the media echo chamber can send things spiraling out of control for a candidate. It's likely to give ammunition to people who say the press has been biased against McCain, but the organization said its findings on this were inconclusive.



McCain

"It's quite possible for there to be elements of enthusiasm for one candidate or another," said Tom Rosenstiel, director of the Washington-based think tank. "That's a failure of professionalism if it's there. But this report can't suss it out."

McCain and Obama have received an equal amount of media attention since the conventions. The project judged 57 percent of the stories about McCain as negative, with 14 percent positive. The rest were neutral.

Obama's coverage was mixed: 36 percent positive, 29 percent negative, 35 percent neutral, the study found.

"I guess it's inevitable, but it does reflect the relentless degree to which winning begets winning," Rosenstiel said. "The polls are so ubiquitous that it is difficult for them not to be the picture frame through which the press views everything."

McCain's poll numbers have been sinking. As a result, many of the stories about him are about why his poll numbers are sinking - and how whatever he says or does is an attempt to stop his poll numbers from sinking, he said.

The economic crisis, and McCain's response to it, also played poorly for him in the press. His attempt to deflect attention with attacks on Obama and his ties to 1960s radical William Ayers did even worse, the study found. During this time, news organizations also did critical fact-checks on some McCain ads, including one on Obama and sex education.

Changes in the media have also heightened the sense of piling on, Rosenstiel said. There are more polls to report on, hence more stories to say McCain is doing poorly in them. The 24-hour news networks are paying a great deal of attention to the campaign because it gets ratings, making for more repeating of stories done elsewhere, he said.

The cable networks have been showing off new iPhone-like technology that allows them to pull up maps of the country and data, and the electoral maps haven't been good for McCain. Financial cutbacks also mean less time for news organizations to do enterprise reporting, again making for more repetition.

Rosenstiel noted that Obama's coverage was negative during the week after the GOP convention, when the surging McCain had the Democrat on his heels and talking about lipstick and pigs. McCain's negative coverage closely tracks the tone of Democrat Al Gore's during the 2000 campaign, he said.

A similar thing happened during the latter stages of Hillary Clinton's campaign against Obama, said David Gregory, host of MSNBC's "Race to the White House."

"There's a lot of focus on the campaign that is in decline to explain why that is happening, and then it becomes in the eye of the beholder whether that is fair or unfair treatment," Gregory said. "The best we can do is challenge both sides substantively."

The McCain campaign did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

Sarah Palin has received three times the press attention as the Democratic vice presidential candidate, Joe Biden, the study found. Her stories were judged 39 percent negative, 33 percent mixed and 28 percent positive.

Palin's coverage started out positive but turned when reporters went to Alaska to check on her record as governor. The study found only 5 percent of the stories were about Palin's family, most of them in the days after it was revealed her daughter was pregnant.

'Spamalot' and 'Hairspray' set to close in January 2009

NEW YORK (AP)—January is usually a pretty chilly month on Broadway. But this year, the post-holidays could be a little colder than normal. "Hairspray" and "Monty Python's Spamalot," both long-running, Tony-winning best musicals, are closing up shop.

"Spamalot" pulls up the moat for good on Jan. 18 after more than 1,500 performances. No word yet on its replacement in one of Broadway's most visible theaters, the Shubert located on 44th Street just west of Times Square.

The show, a Mike Nichols-directed adaptation of "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," has grossed more than $175 million in New York since opening in March 2005 and has been seen by more than 2 million people.

"Hairspray" will have had an even longer run - more than 2,600 performances - by the time it folds Jan. 4 at the Neil Simon Theatre. But the show, based on John Waters' cult movie classic, is going out with its original star, Harvey Fierstein.

The actor will return to the musical, which opened in August 2002, for its last eight weeks, Nov. 11-Jan. 4. He will reprise his Tony-winning role of Edna Turnblad, the goodhearted mother of Tracy Turnblad, would-be TV teen dance star in 1960s Baltimore.

"Hairspray" has grossed more than $265 million during its Broadway run and was made into a movie musical with John Travolta in the Fierstein role.

There's no decision yet on what will go into the Neil Simon, a desirable 1,400-seat theater that usually houses musicals. But Variety has reported a possible tenant next fall could be the American company of "Dirty Dancing," which just opened in Chicago and will play Boston and Los Angeles in 2009.

Other Broadway closings are likely in January.

"I suspect we have to be adjusting for the long haul," says Victoria Bailey, executive director of the Theatre Development Fund, which runs the Times Square TKTS discount ticket booth. "It's not just about the next month. I think the first place where one might begin to understand and experience it will be the holiday season."

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of

SSG Julian A. Manglona

October 26, 1968 – October 9, 2008

Survived by:

Spouse: Brenda Doreen Cabrera Manglona
Children: Maxine Julianne Cabrera Manglona
Monica A. Manglona
Chelsie A. Manglona
Audrey P. Manglona
Rachel P. Manglona
Demiana P. Manglona
Draeshia Manibusan
Joden Camacho
Reared Son: Gino Pangelinan

Parents: Vicente M. & Rita A. Manglona
Mother-In-Law: Margarita Tenorio Cabrera

Brothers, Sisters, and In-Laws:

†George A. Manglona & Kelly Y. Manglona
(George Jr., Allan, Wendy and Billy)
Cindy M. Attao & John D. Attao
(Geralynn, Johnathan and Lance)
Norman A. Manglona & Katherine D. Manglona
(Norman Jr., Tavia and Storm)
Charlene M. Lizama & Joseph T. Lizama
(Ryan (Dre Joey), Joelene, Ritalene, Jonalene and Joseph Jr.)
Lisa M. Dela Cruz & Francisco Dela Cruz
(Divana & Raymond (Raymana Owen), Dana, Damian and Deveney)
Patrick A. Manglona & Marie P. Manglona
(Seth, Aaron and Rita)
Lorilynn Manglona-Mendiola & Joseph K. Mendiola
(Frankie M. Angel)
Sisters-In-Law: Karen Tenorio Cabrera
Jaclyn Michelle Cabrera
Godparent: Manuel Cruz

Predeceased by:

Father-In-Law: †Maximo Camacho Cabrera
Brother: †George A. Manglona
Godparent: †Rose L. Cruz
Grandparents: †Lucas & †Concepcion Manglona
†Ignacio & †Manuela Aquiningoc

Remains will arrive Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 1:15 a.m. Remains will lie in state at Nuestra Señora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel. At 9:00 a.m. his remains will be flown to Tinian for viewing and last respects.

Memorial services will be held on Monday, October 27, 2008 at Mount Carmel Cathedral beginnig at 8:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by interment services at CNMI Veterans Cemetery.

Ginen I Familia

Hollywood comes out in support of gay marriage

By DERRIK J. LANG
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For weeks, Hollywood had been criticized for not contributing enough to defeat a ballot initiative in California that would ban same-sex marriage. Now, members of the film and TV industries are sweeping in to preserve gays' right to get hitched.

Maybe they were planning for a Hollywood ending all along?

After news of Proposition 8's supporters outraising its opponents spread and the measure gained support in public opinion polls, many Hollywood insiders have made declarations of support—financial and otherwise—against the ban. While the "No on 8" campaign hasn't quite reached the buzziness of other celebrity causes du jour, momentum is growing.

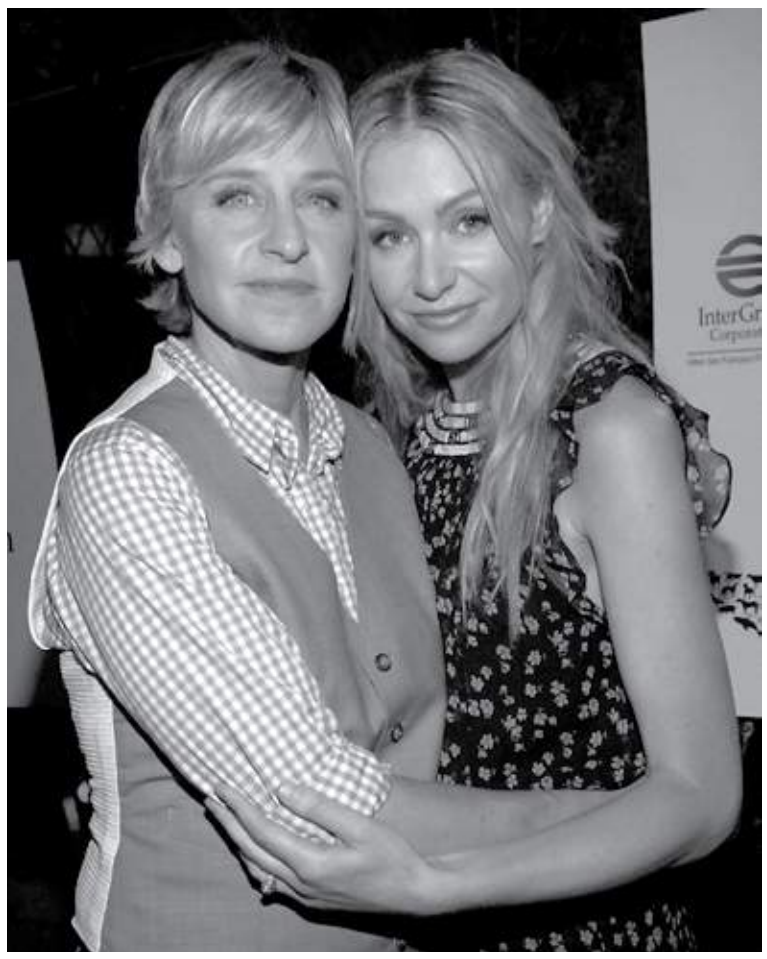
"The entertainment industry is obviously an important donor base," said Chad Griffin, a political strategist for the campaign. "It's an industry that's often stood up against discrimination. This particular initiative writes discrimination into the constitution. I think it's something most fair-minded people, celebrities or otherwise, are outraged about."

Leading the Hollywood outreach is Oscar-winning producer Bruce Cohen, who wed art consultant Gabriel Catone in a ceremony officiated by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa in June. The "American Beauty" and "Pushing Daisies" producer dug deep into his contacts to ask for their support against the initiative. Cohen's biggest get? Steven Spielberg.

"Steven's been an incredible supporter of me, both personally and professionally, so I called him and told him how much this has meant to me and Gabe," said Cohen, who worked with the director on "The Color Purple" in 1985. "When he told me that he and Kate Capshaw were giving a $100,000 contribution, I was so moved and thankful."

Since same-sex marriage became legal in California in June, at least 11,000 couples have exchanged vows statewide, according to the Williams Institute for Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy based at the University of California, Los Angeles. Among those couples were Ellen DeGeneres and actress Portia de Rossi, who married in August.

The talk show host recently made a public service announcement urging voters to oppose the ballot initiative and purchased $100,000 of television commercial time for her ad.



AP
In this Sept. 28, 2008 file photo, comedian Ellen DeGeneres and actress Portia de Rossi pose on the press line at the "Yes! On Prop 2" benefit gala in Los Angeles.

"I don't know what people are scared of," DeGeneres joked on her show Wednesday. "Maybe they think their children will be influenced (by gay marriage), but I've got to tell you, I was raised by two heterosexuals. Everywhere I looked - heterosexuals. And they did not influence me. It's time we love people for who they are and let them love who they want."

Stars as big as Brad Pitt - and as small as "NCIS" actress Pauley Perrette - have also donated their own cash to defeat Proposition 8 in California, according to state records.

"I consider myself a civil rights activist before I consider myself an actress," said Perrette, who donated $3,000. "Before I ever accidentally became an actress, I was a sociology and psychology major, and I've always been very involved in civil rights. I really believe this is the biggest civil rights issue of our generation."

Pitt made headlines when he donated $100,000 to fight the ballot initiative. Trevor Neilson, Pitt's political and philanthropic adviser, said the actor continues to be surprised that his colleagues in the entertainment industry have not donated more money to support the battle against Proposition 8.

Among the other famous contributors: "Point of No Return" actress Bridget Fonda ($200); "One Life to Live" actor Jason Tam ($100); "In Plain Sight" actress Mary McCormack ($200); "Good Will Hunting" director Gus Van Sant ($2,500); "Brothers & Sisters" executive producer Greg Berlanti ($5,000) and "Star Trek" actor George Takei ($2,600), who wed business manager Brad Altman in September.

"I'm gay, and I have a partner of 17 years," said "The Real World" co-creator and executive producer Jonathan Murray, who donated $10,000 to support gay marriage but hasn't wed his partner. "We have a son who's 9. He'll be 10 soon. We believe we have as much right to be married as any other two adults in California. It's that simple."

The "Yes on 8" campaign has far less wattage. The most famous contributor to appear in state records is Orson Bean, perhaps best known for his frequent appearances as a panelist on "To Tell the Truth." He donated $200.

Sonja Eddings Brown, a spokeswoman for "Yes on 8," said the campaign has not reached out to Hollywood because "the campaign is a campaign of the people. It's not intended to be dotted with celebrities."

"It's outstanding that Brad Pitt and Steven Spielberg want to participate in the process, but their examples in their homes are the best indicator," said Eddings Brown. "They've created homes that have a committed mother and father in each of them. In Brad Pitt's case, he went outside of the country and adopted kids who didn't have a mother and a father."

The biggest boon for the "No on 8" campaign may come from something Tinseltown loves most: a good party. The movement held its first star-studded no-press-allowed fundraiser Tuesday at supermarket mogul Ron Burkle's Beverly Hills estate. Melissa Etheridge and Mary J. Blige performed at the sold-out event, which required a minimum donation of $1,000.

The bash, which was attended by such celebs as Barbara Streiesand, David Hyde Pierce and Rob Reiner, raised over $4 million for the campaign, according to Lorri L. Jean, CEO of the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center. That money will be used to purchase air time for campaign ads. Jean said she's pleased with Hollywood's support but believes they can do better.

"There could be a lot more," said Jean. "I really hope that more people who are in the entertainment industry will decide to get involved with this campaign and will help us defeat Proposition 8. The truth is, if we don't have more of our straight allies - not only in Hollywood but in other areas - we're going to have a hard time on Nov. 4th."

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High School Musical 3
Friday 4:00 7:10 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:00 7:10 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:00 7:10
Mon and Tue 4:00 7:10
Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale
Musical • Rated G
Synopsis
High school seniors Troy and Gabriella are facing the prospect of being separated from one another as they head off in different directions to college. Joined by the rest of the Wildcats, they stage an elaborate spring musical reflecting their experiences, hopes and fears about their future.

Pride and Glory
Friday 4:30 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:15
Mon and Tue 4:30 7:15
Edward Norton, Colin Farrell
Drama, Crime, Animated • Rated R
Synopsis
An exploration of the personal and professional lives of NYPD officers told through the interwoven lives of a three generation family of cops. Their moral codes are tested when Ray Farrell, one of three sons on the job, investigates a case that reveals an incendiary police corruption scandal involving his own brother.

Max Payne
Friday 4:25 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Mon and Tue 4:25 7:30
Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Igor
Friday 4:10 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:25
Mon and Tue 4:10 7:25
Steve Busceni (v), Jay Leno (v)
Comedy, Animated • Rated PG

Body of Lies
Friday @ 7:20 @
Saturday 1:25 @ 7:20 @
Sunday 1:25 @ 7:20
Mon and Tue @ 7:20
Leonardo DiCaprio, Russel Crowe
Thriller, Adaptation • Rated R

Beverly Hills Chihuahua
Friday 4:05 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:05 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:05 7:00
Mon and Tue 4:05 7:00
Drew Barrymore (v), Andy Garcia (v)
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG

Quarantine
Friday 4:15 @ 9:50
Saturday @ 4:15 @ 9:50
Sunday @ 4:15 @
Mon and Tue 4:15 @
Jennifer Carpenter, Jay Hernandez
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Eagle Eye
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon and Tue 4:20 7:05
Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13

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Al Pacino opens Rome Film Fest

ROME (AP)—Al Pacino kicked off the third edition of the Rome Film Festival, where he received an acting award and met with festive fans.

The Academy Award-winning actor received a prize awarded to the Actors Studio of New York - a theater workshop of which he is co-president - and attended a public meeting where he answered questions from moviegoers.

Pacino, who won the best actor Oscar for 1992's "Scent of a Woman," said Wednesday that the best tip he could give about acting was "to rehearse."

"Learn your words, and how to rehearse, and then rehearse," he told reporters ahead of the award ceremony. "My style is to allow the unconscious to be free, so you don't censor yourself."

In his latest movie, the 68-year-old actor co-stars with Robert De Niro in "Righteous Kill," a story about two policemen chasing a serial killer.

Pacino also briefly talked about his upcoming movie - "Salomaybe?" - a film inspired by Oscar Wilde's once-banned theater play on the lustful biblical character Salome.

The Rome Film Festival, which runs through Oct. 31, will host the world premiere of "8" (Huit), a U.N.-backed movie made of eight short segments that aims to raise awareness of world poverty.

The segments are directed by Wim Wenders, Jane Campion and Gus Van Sant, among others. The film is inspired by the U.N. Millennium Development Goals which were adopted by world leaders in 2000 to cut poverty and disease and improve health care and education for the world's poor by 2015.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY

(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I watched the television special "Stand Up 2 Cancer" and recognized every performer except one. Who was the female singing with Josh Groban?—Jane S., Port Charlotte, Fla.

A: Josh Groban was paired with two-time Grammy Award-nominee Monica Mancini for their rendition on John Lennon's "Imagine." Monica is the daughter of famous film composer Henry Mancini ("The Pink Panther Theme," "Moon River" and "Baby ElephantWalk"). Born in 1952, Monica got her start singing with the Henry Mancini Chorus, and from there has gone on to appear on numerous film scores with the likes of Placido Domingo, Quincy Jones and Michael Jackson. She had a PBS television special called "Monica Mancini: On Record," which became her debut CD, "Monica Mancini." She has since released three more albums.

Monica Mancini

■ ■ ■

Q: In the movie "Death Wish," there was a scene where three guys were mugging an old man in an alley. One of the muggers looked like Denzel Washington. Was it him?—Ellen W., via e-mail

A: The actors who played the muggers are Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs, Eric Laneuville and Damien Leake. However, upon researching this question, I stumbled across some now-famous actors (not Denzel) who did play small roles in this 1974 movie. Christopher Guest ("This Is Spinal Tap" and "Best in Show") played a patrolman; Jeff Goldblum ("The Fly" and "Jurassic Park") played a character named "Freak No. 1"; and Olympia Dukakis ("Steel Magnolias" and "Moonstruck") had an uncredited role as a cop at the precinct.

■ ■ ■

Q: Years ago, I saw Ben Cross ("Chariots of Fire") in a movie about a Nazi death camp commander who went into hiding as a Jew in a concentration camp. He walked out of the camp with the other Jews. It was a wonderful story about his change in life, but I cannot seem to find the name of the movie.—Brenda D., Newfield, N.Y.

A: The film you're thinking of is "Pursuit," a 1989 British miniseries based on the Robert L. Fish novel. It appeared in the U.S. as a made-for-TV movie under the name "A Twist of Fate." In it, Ben played SS Lt. Col. Helmut von Schreader, who conceives an unusual plan to escape the aftermath of the World War II by hiding out in a concentration camp. Thanks to plastic surgery and falsified papers, von Schreader transforms into Ben Grossman, who is liberated from the camps and, years later, becomes a general in the Israeli army.

■ ■ ■

Q: I just watched the wonderful Shirley MacLaine in the Lifetime Television movie "Coco Chanel" and was wondering a few things about her. Is she married, does she have any children and what is next for her?—Olive P., Altoona, Pa.

A: Shirley MacLaine, 74, was married to businessman Steve Parker from 1954-1982, and together they have a daughter, Sachi Parker, 52, who is also an actress. Next up for Shirley is the TV movie "Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning" and the feature film "Poor Things."

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

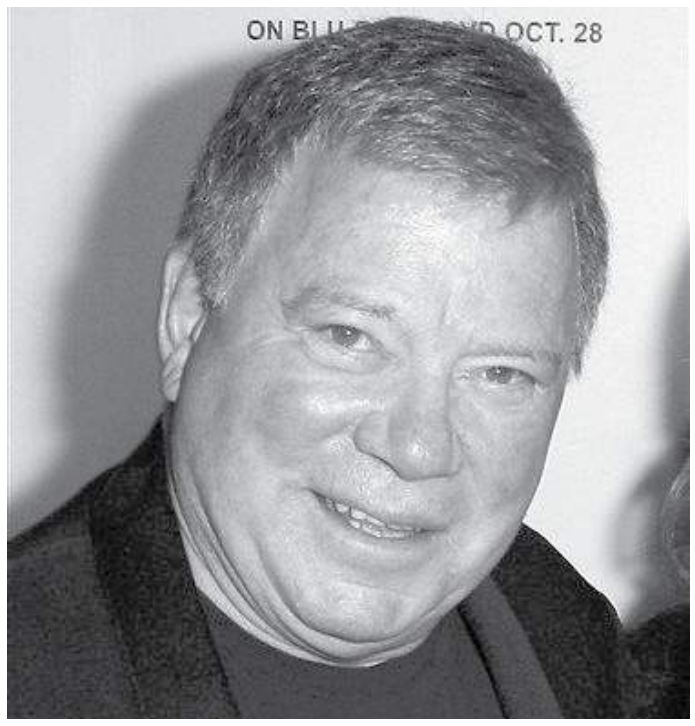
Shatner upset Takei didn't invite him to wedding

LOS ANGELES (AP)—William Shatner is setting his phaser to stun against his old "Star Trek" co-star George Takei. In a video posted on Shatner's Web site Wednesday, he lashed out at Takei for not inviting him to his wedding last month.

The 77-year-old Kirk said Takei, who played Enterprise helmsman Sulu, apparently harbors a grudge against him that kept him from being invited to Takei's nuptials.

"The whole thing makes me feel badly," Shatner said in the video. "Poor man. There is such a sickness there. It's so patently obvious that there is a psychosis there. I don't know what his original thing about me was. I have no idea."

Takei and Brad Alman tied the knot Sept. 15. "Star Trek" alums Nichelle Nichols and Walter Koenig—who played Uhura and Chekhov, respectively—were among the attendees at the multicultural ceremony at the Japanese American National Museum. Takei and Altman had previously stated that Shatner was invited to their wedding, but he never RSVPed.



AP

In this Oct. 11, 2008 file photo, actor William Shatner arrives at the 5th annual St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Runway for Life benefit in Beverly Hills, Calif.

"It is unfortunate that Bill was unable to join us for our wedding as he indeed was invited to attend," Takei responded. "It is our hope that at this point he joins us in voting no on Proposition 8, which seeks to eliminate the fundamental right for same-sex couples to marry in California."

Shatner said he felt he never knew Takei when they worked together on the original TV series and later in the "Star Trek" films.

The "Boston Legal" co-star also attacked Takei's decision to come out of the closet later in life, saying "Who cares? Be gay. Don't be gay. That's up to you, George."

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 POP SINGLES

This Week Last Week

1. T.I. feat. Rihanna No. 80 "Live Your Life" (Def Jam/ Grand Hustle)
2. T.I. No. 1 "Whatever You Like" (Grand Hustle)
3. Pink No. 2 "So What" (LaFace)
4. Rihanna No. 4 "Disturbia" (SRP/Def Jam)
5. Kevin Rudolf feat. Lil Wayne No. 15 "Let It Rock" (Cash Money)
6. Katy Perry No. 6 "Hot N Cold" (Capitol)
7. Christina Aguilera new entry "Keeps Getting Better" (RCA)
8. T-Pain feat. Lil Wayne No. 7 "Can't Believe It" (Nappy Boy/Konvict/Jive)
9. M.I.A. No. 5 "Paper Planes" (XL)
10. Nickelback new entry "Gotta Be Somebody" (Roadrunner)

Rihanna

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. T.I. new entry "Paper Trail" (Grand Hustle/Atlantic)
2. Jennifer Hudson new entry "Jennifer Hudson" (Arista)
3. Robin Thicke new entry "Something Else" (Star Trak/ Interscope)
4. James Taylor new entry "Cover" (Hear)
5. Metallica No. 1 "Death Magnetic" (Warner Bros.)
6. Ne-Yo No. 3 "Year of the Gentleman" (Def Jam)
7. Kid Rock No. 7 "Rock N Roll Jesus" (Top Dog/Atlantic)
8. Jack's Mannequin new entry "The Glass Passenger" (Sire)
9. Kellie Pickler new entry "Kellie Pickler" (19/BNA)
10. Jazmine Sullivan No. 6 "Fearless" (J)

TOP 10 HOT COUNTRY SINGLES

1. Kenny Chesney No. 2 "Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven" (Blue Chair)
2. Darius Rucker No. 1 "Don't Think I Don't Think About It" (Capitol Nashville)
3. Toby Keith No. 3 "She Never Cried in Front of Me" (Show Dog Nashville)
4. Carrie Underwood No. 6 "Just a Dream" (19/Arista)
5. Kid Rock No. 4 "All Summer Long" (Top Dog/Atlantic)
6. Brad Paisley No. 8 "Waitin' On a Woman" (Arista Nashville)
7. Jimmy Wayne No. 5 "Do You Believe Me Now" (Valory)
8. Tim McGraw No. 9 "Let It Go" (Curb)
9. Taylor Swift No. 22 "Love Story" (Big Machine)
10. George Strait No. 7 "Troubadour" (MCA Nashville)

TOP TEN MOVIES

1. Beverly Hills Chihuahua (PG) animated
2. Quarantine (R) Jennifer Carpenter, Steve Harris
3. Body of Lies (R) Leonardo DiCaprio, Russell Crowe
4. Eagle Eye (PG-13) Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
5. Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist (PG-13) Michael Cera, Kat Dennings
6. The Express (PG) Rob Brown, Dennis Quaid
7. Nights in Rodanthe (PG-13) Richard Gere, Diane Lane
8. Appaloosa (R) Robert Jauregui, Jeremy Irons
9. The Dutchess (PG-13) Keira Knightley, Ralph Fiennes
10. Fireproof (PG) Kirk Cameron, Erin Bethea

TOP 10 VIDEO RENTALS

1. Sex and the City: The Movie (R) Sarah Jessica Parker (Warner)
2. Leatherheads (PG-13) George Clooney (Universal)
3. Baby Mama (PG-13) Amy Poehler (Universal)
4. Made of Honor (R) Patrick Dempsey (Sony Pictures)
5. Deception (R) Hugh Jackman (Fox)
6. 88 Minutes (R) Al Pacino (Sony Pictures)
7. Speed Racer (PG) Emile Hirsch (Warner)
8. The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13) Jet Li (Lionsgate)
9. The Love Guru (PG-13) Mike Myers (Paramount)
10. What Happens in Vegas (PG-13) Cameron Diaz (Fox)

TOP 10 DVD SALES

1. Sex and the City: The Movie (R) (New Line)
2. Leatherheads (PG-13) (Universal)
3. Made of Honor (PG-13) (Sony Pictures)
4. Speed Racer (PG) (Warner)
5. Baby Mama (PG-13) (Universal)
6. The Love Guru (PG-13) (Paramount)
7. The Little Mermaid: Ariel's Beginning (G) (Walt Disney)
8. Transformers (PG-13) (DreamWorks)
9. The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13) (Lionsgate)
10. Scooby-Doo and the Goblin King! (NR) (Hanna-Barbera)

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Cell phone users should give it a rest in the ladies' room

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Unbelievable as it may seem, this actually happened. I was in the ladies' room in my office building when a woman came in talking on her cell phone. She went into the stall next to mine and continued carrying on a conversation throughout her visit—even while washing her hands!

I have mentioned this to several people. They say they have encountered the same situation in restrooms, too. Abby, how would you suggest we handle this in the future?

SOME THINGS ARE SACRED IN MARYLAND

DEAR SOME THINGS ARE SACRED: I shouldn't have to say this, but using a cell phone while going to the bathroom is extremely inappropriate. While the desire not to interrupt a conversation is understandable, to talk while the background noise is reminiscent of an old Alka Seltzer jingle is not only an invasion of the privacy of the occupants of the adjacent stalls, but also disrespectful to the party on the other end of the line.

How to handle it? Ask the offender to please stop. However, for some people the most effective lesson in consideration for others may be when their cell phone falls into the toilet and must be replaced.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 4-year-old son, "Blaine," is well-mannered. He knows to take his hat off indoors, and opens doors for people (when they are not too heavy for him). However, Blaine sometimes forgets to say "please" and "thank you."

When my son and I are out and someone gives him something—like a cookie at the bakery—if Blaine forgets and I prompt him, the person sometimes will say, "Oh, it's OK. He doesn't have to say thank you." It's very important to me that my son have good manners and always use those words. How should I respond to those who insist that it's not a big deal for children not to use their manners?

STRICT MOTHER IN DEERFIELD, MASS.

DEAR MOTHER: I applaud you for teaching your son basic good manners, a lesson that will serve him well throughout his lifetime.

When someone tells you Blaine doesn't "have to" say please or thank you, speak up and correct the person by saying: "Oh, yes he does. 'Please' and 'thank you' are magic words in our family, and it's important that my son always remember to say them." Do this not for the adult's benefit, but in order to reinforce the lesson to Blaine.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Curious in the Sunbelt" (July 16) asked you if it was inconsiderate to knit or crochet while attending a meeting or other gathering. (You said it was.) While it may seem that someone can't give undivided attention to a speaker while doing something with his/her hands, that person might have Attention Deficit Disorder or be a "kinesthetic" learner. While most people absorb information through seeing and hearing, some actually need to keep their hands occupied in order to listen.

Literature on "multiple intelligences" and other learning theories support this view—and as a former classroom teacher and current psychotherapist, I have personal experience about this reality. As long as the individual is quiet and not terribly distracting, consider this behavior a better alternative than constant fidgeting.

JAELLINE JAFFE, Ph.D., SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR DR. JAFFE: Thank you for your professional expertise regarding learning theories. I also heard from a pilot who knits while flying an airplane and a woman who pointed out that if knitting was good enough for Eleanor Roosevelt during United Nations Security Council meetings, it was good enough for her. Most readers agreed that if the individual is not disruptive to others, then what's the harm? I stand corrected.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Miss Teen Louisiana loses her crown after arrest

BOSSIER CITY, La. (AP)—Miss Teen Louisiana lost her crown 11 days early after being arrested on charges of leaving a restaurant without paying and carrying marijuana. RPM Productions Inc., the sponsor, took back the title on Tuesday after learning that Lindsey Evans, 18, of Blanchard, had been arrested, president Paula M. Miles said Wednesday.

Evans will have to return her sash and crown, but won't have to return any other prizes or cash equivalents, Miles said.

"She's done a good job this year," Miles said.

A call to Evans' parents' house was not answered Wednesday.

Miles said she had been told that the three women with Evans told police that Evans, alone in the group, had paid her bill. But Bossier City spokesman Mark Natale said Evans admitted not paying.

Bossier City police booked all four on theft charges, three on drug charges and two on drug paraphernalia charges, he said.

Natale said Bossier City police were called to a Posados Cafe restaurant Saturday evening because a group had left without paying $46.07. The manager had found a pocketbook at the table, and police found Evans' driver's license and about 2 grams of suspected marijuana in it, Natale said.

He said officers recognized Evans from the photo when the group returned for the pocketbook.

Miles said she talked with Evans on Monday.

The next Miss Teen Louisiana will be chosen Nov. 1 at a pageant in Lafayette. Michelle Berthelot, Miss Louisiana USA 2008, will crown the winner.

AP

Miss Louisiana Teen USA Lindsey Evans, 17, of Blanchard, visits with Millie Zelaya, 3, at Sutton Children's Hospital in Shreveport on Nov. 21, 2007.

La. man sues Oprah over arrest on extortion charge

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A Louisiana man has filed a lawsuit against Oprah Winfrey, claiming she and an attorney made false statements that led the FBI to arrest him on charges that he tried to extort the talk-show host.

Keifer Bonvillain, who had the charges dismissed, seeks damages of $180 million from Winfrey, her attorney and the FBI in the federal lawsuit filed Tuesday.

Bonvillain, of Houma, La., was arrested in December 2006 after he allegedly recorded telephone conversations with an employee of Winfrey's production company and told a company associate he wanted to publish a book based on the recordings. The FBI said he claimed to have offers from publishers and tabloids ranging from $500,000 to $3 million.

The FBI arrested Bonvillain when another company associate agreed to pay him $1.5 million, wired him $3,000 and arranged to meet him. Bonvillain claims in the lawsuit that he did everything he could to avoid doing anything illegal.

"There was substantial damage done to my name and reputation on a world level," he wrote. "The extent of my damages is vast."

Federal officials agreed to dismiss the charges last year on the condition that Bonvillain perform 50 hours of community service, undergo drug testing and pay $3,000 in restitution.

Chip Babcock, a lawyer for Winfrey's Harpo Productions, denied the allegations in Bonvillain's suit.

"And we know that this whole episode started when the plaintiff wiretapped a Harpo employee in California," he said. "We advised (Bonvillain) that we believe that wiretapping was illegal, and this case will give us an opportunity to determine whether we were right about that."

Hough feeling 'fine' after hospitalization

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Julianne Hough is feeling fine after being hospitalized with stomach trouble following her "Dancing With the Stars" performance.

"With stomach problems, you never know what's going on," Hough wrote in a FanCast posting. "It could've been appendicitis. It turned out just to be a bad stomach. As my mom said, better safe than sorry."

The 20-year-old professional dancer, who's partnered with "Hannah Montana" actor Cody Linley on the popular ABC dancing competition, went to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center following the live results show Tuesday.

Hough said she hadn't been feeling well all day and "curled up in a ball" backstage after the show.

"I'd never been in an emergency room before," she wrote. "I was grateful I wasn't there for anything more serious than a bad stomach ache."

In this Oct. 16, 2008 file photo, dancer Julianne Hough poses on the press line at the premiere of the feature film "High School Musical 3: Senior Year" in Los Angeles.

AP

Guns N' Roses to finally release 'Democracy' album

NEW YORK (AP)—After years of delay, Guns N' Roses is finally releasing "Chinese Democracy."

Geffen Records has announced that the band's eagerly awaited album will be released Nov. 23 at Best Buy stores and the retail chain's Web site.

"Chinese Democracy" is the first album of new Guns N' Roses material since 1991's "Use Your Illusion I" and "Use Your Illusion II." The band, fronted by Axl Rose, has sold 90 million albums and made a splash in the '80s with the hits "Sweet Child o' Mine," "Paradise City" and "Welcome to the Jungle."

Their 14-track album includes the song "If The World," which is part of the soundtrack to the recent film "Body of Lies." The band recently completed a world tour.

Axl Rose

Spacey opens Old Vic season

LONDON (AP)—Kevin Spacey will be behind the scenes and not on stage when London's Old Vic Theatre opens its 2009 season in January.

Spacey

The Academy Award-winning actor will direct the world premiere of Joe Sutton's "Complicit," a new American play about a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist facing prosecution. It runs Jan. 7-Feb. 21, 2009.

Spacey, an Oscar winner for "American Beauty" and "The Usual Suspects," has run the legendary theater since 2003 and appeared there early this year in a critically acclaimed revival of David Mamet's "Speed-the-Plow."

"Complicit" will be followed by a revival of Brian Friel's Irish drama "Dancing at Lughnasa," starring Niamh Cusack and Andrea Corr from singing group The Corrs. It runs Feb. 26-May 9.

Productions of Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" and Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard," directed by Oscar winner Sam Mendes, will run at the Old Vic May 23-Aug. 15.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHY IN THE WORLD AM I WAITING IN THE POURING RAIN FOR THE SCHOOL BUS TO TAKE ME SOMEWHERE I DON'T EVEN WANT TO GO?
I GO TO SCHOOL, BUT I NEVER LEARN WHAT I WANT TO KNOW.
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10/24

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

MMM! THESE ESCARGOTS ARE GOOD!
YOU HAVE A VERY SOPHISTICATED PALATE, SIR
HMM?
NOT EVERYONE APPRECIATES THE FINE TASTE OF SNAILS
PHHHHHT
chez GRUB
JIM DAVIS 10-24
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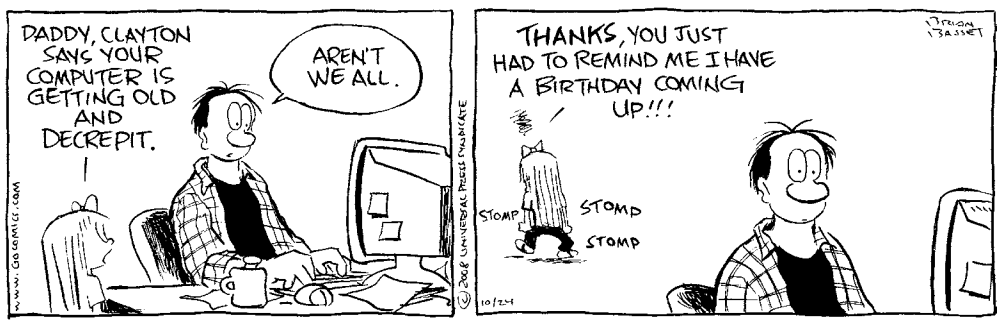
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DADDY, CLAYTON SAYS YOUR COMPUTER IS GETTING OLD AND DECREPIT.
AREN'T WE ALL.
THANKS, YOU JUST HAD TO REMIND ME I HAVE A BIRTHDAY COMING UP!!!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
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10/24

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I DON'T LIKE OUR WAITRESS'S ATTITUDE.
SHHH!
ALL DONE? DO YOU WANT DESSERT?
WHAT ARE MY CHOICES?
YES OR NO.
Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

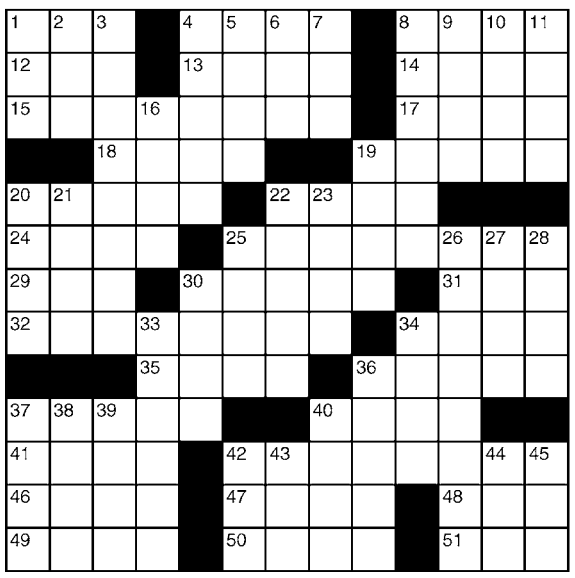
ACROSS
1 Watering hole
4 "Lion King" baddie
8 Dog owner's ordeal
12 Ostrich's cousin
13 Ethereal
14 Huron neighbor
15 Suggest as a candidate
17 Ogling look
18 Division word
19 Pageant winner's topper
20 Columbus' birthplace
22 Cheese choice
24 Slender
25 Con game
29 Last (Abbr.)
30 Sprung up
31 1-Across request
32 Footballer's anti-glare smear
34 Mischievous tykes
35 Example of beefcake
36 Hibernian
37 Photo book
40 PC picture
41 Winter garment
42 Rule
46 Luau entertainment
47 Caspian feeder
48 Earl Grey, e.g.
49 Paradise
50 Say it isn't so
51 Addnl. phone no.

DOWN
1 Stein or Stiller
2 Latin 101 word
3 Contemplate
4 Annual visitor
5 "Arrivederci"
6 Museum stuff
7 Catcher's place
8 Credence
9 Vicinity
10 Layer
11 Zeus' wife
16 Privy to
19 Fourth dimension
20 Collagist's need
21 Slithery
22 Impede
23 Put on the line
25 Drescher or Tarkenton
26 Make into a thin plate
27 Much of Austria
28 Netting
30 Astringent
33 Himalayan nation
34 Unyielding
36 With aloofness
37 Rue the run
38 Clamorous
39 "The Dark Knight" star
40 Model who wed David Bowie
42 Flop
43 Tramcar contents
44 John Ritter's dad
45 Chow down

Solution time: 25 mins.

G	A	S	H	■	B	A	H	■	P	A	C	T
R	I	P	E	■	E	V	E	■	L	I	A	R
I	D	E	A	■	I	A	N	■	A	R	M	Y
M	A	C	R	O	N	■	D	O	Z	E	■	■
■	■	■	S	U	G	A	R	D	A	D	D	Y
B	L	E	A	T	■	M	I	D	■	A	R	E
O	I	L	Y	■	B	O	X	■	F	L	O	W
O	D	E	■	F	U	N	■	B	E	E	P	S
P	O	P	S	I	N	G	E	R	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	H	U	N	G	■	S	A	T	I	R	E
S	P	A	N	■	L	O	S	■	O	N	U	S
P	E	N	N	■	E	W	E	■	O	T	I	S
A	R	T	Y	■	S	E	X	■	N	O	N	E

Yesterday's answer 10-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Monica Arnold, 28; Ben Gillies, 29; Kevin Kline, 61; F. Murray Abraham, 69

Happy Birthday: Do what you can for others but not at the expense of your own projects or purpose. Your strength of character and belief in your own ability and skills will set the stage for future undertakings. Change may leave you confused but you can surpass any competition you face if you don't second-guess your decisions. Your numbers are 1, 6, 13, 21, 30, 37, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Money and love will be a tough mix. A partnership needs an adjustment before it deteriorates beyond fixing. Set your goals and don't take detours along the way. Strength will help you make the right choice. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Regain your position with friends, colleagues and peers by standing up for your rights. Someone from your past will help you. Reconnect with old ways, ideas and places to establish what it is you should be doing in the here-and-now. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Be on guard for any changes that are put into play that will cause emotional upset. Love may be on the line if it infringes on your work and ability to make ends meet. Talks will help you get things out in the open. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Sometimes you have to look back in order to move forward. Remember past experiences before you make a life-changing decision. Don't fear change or putting yourself on the line for something you believe in. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may be all caught up in the moment, especially where love and having a good time are concerned but an opportunity is apparent, so explore it. A change of location will help you prosper and a good partnership will help you grow emotionally and professionally. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll have mixed emotions regarding your personal situation. A change of scenery will do you good. Take a short trip back to old, familiar places. Appreciate the people you love but do not give in to demands being made. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Stay calm and keep things under control financially, personally and emotionally. You will find a way to overcome any problems faced. Some hard decisions have to be made but your unique way of handling matters will benefit you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): It's all about trust and loyalty and doing what's right. If you have taken advantage of someone in the past, expect to pay for it now. If you have been fair, you will benefit. Stabilize your life by doing what's right—now. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Talks may be difficult but, once you put any differences you have behind you, you can get a fresh start. A situation with your current position may make you realize you aren't doing what you want. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can do no wrong, so don't waste a moment in moving forward with your plans. Emotional issues with someone you are close to will be resolved if you make minor adjustments to satisfy his or her needs. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Talk to people in the know about a game plan for the future. Check into subjects, trades or even a small business that interests you. Moves to better your life and your position will lead to achieving your goals. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): There is so much going on you probably don't know where to begin. Look to someone who has always been there for you for guidance. The information you receive will make sense and will cut any loss you may incur in half. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are serious, mysterious and you stick to your beliefs, traditions and code of ethics. You are competitive and strong-minded.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9		8		4	
1		7						
			7				1	
3						2		5
				8				
6		5						3
	8				6			
						3		6
	1		4		7			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	7	6	2	3	4	5	8	9
2	5	4	9	7	8	6	1	3
9	3	8	1	5	6	2	7	4
4	9	1	7	2	3	8	6	5
5	8	7	6	9	1	4	3	2
6	2	3	4	8	5	1	9	7
7	4	2	8	6	9	3	5	1
3	6	9	5	1	2	7	4	8
8	1	5	3	4	7	9	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GAMMA-RAY BURSTS **Solution: 7 letters**

P	P	D	E	T	A	M	I	L	L	O	C	O	F	E
T	H	G	I	R	B	R	A	N	D	O	M	I	I	N
E	Y	E	N	S	O	L	A	R	M	M	E	D	R	C
L	S	G	N	I	T	S	Y	E	U	R	M	A	E	O
O	I	G	R	O	D	A	T	T	C	G	Y	R	B	U
I	C	A	A	E	M	N	N	E	H	S	N	A	A	N
V	S	L	F	M	N	E	I	C	L	G	R	O	L	T
A	U	A	C	T	M	E	N	L	E	L	I	A	L	E
R	D	X	O	O	E	A	A	A	B	T	A	M	T	R
T	D	Y	M	P	S	R	H	T	G	N	E	R	T	S
L	E	S	S	S	T	M	G	R	A	E	L	C	U	N
U	N	I	E	C	H	I	I	L	(H)	V	P	A	T	H
V	V	I	E	W	S	O	C	C	O	(E)	C	R	O	F
E	K	P	H	O	T	O	C	A	A	W	(A)	T	A	D
S	S	E	C	O	N	D	S	K	L	S	E	(T)	A	R

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Afterglow, Blinding, Bright, Collimated, Comet, Cosmic, Data, Distance, Encounters, Energy, Event, Fierce, Fireball, Force, Galaxy, Gamma, Heat, Long, Mighty, Momentum, Nuclear, Optical, Path, Peak, Phenomena, Photo, Physics, Radio, Random, Rates, Rays, Seconds, Shock, Skies, Solar, Spectra, Stars, Stellar, Strength, Sudden, Ultraviolet, Views

Yesterday's Answer: Grassroots

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 psh for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. **Sorry,** no online orders for this special offer.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Metal Raceway (Ex-Garment Factory)
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24g or 26g Galvanised 500 lin-ft.

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Misamis Construction
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WHATZIT Solution: Dog pound

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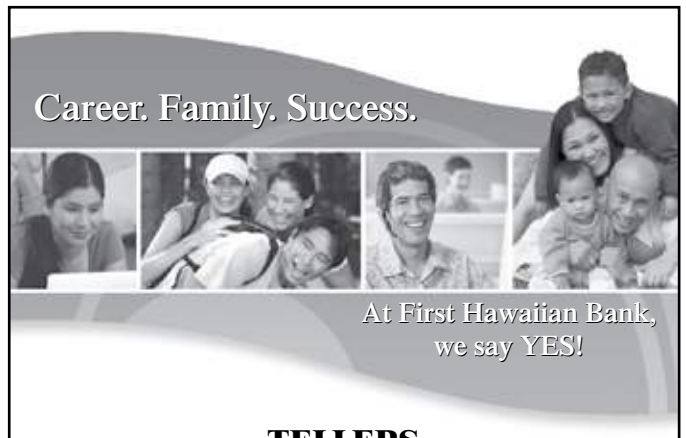

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CLOSING DATE:	**Open Until Filled**

Position Summary: The position is an excepted service position and is responsible for directing the fiscal function of the organization in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and other regulatory and advisory organizations. The employee provides the Board of Directors with an independent and expert evaluation on financial issues, the fiscal health of the Authority; and recommends changes that will improve the quality of fiscal planning and management of CDA. The incumbent shall also perform other functions as the Executive Director and the Board may require. The position is an Officer of the Authority.

Qualification Requirements: Must hold a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university in Accounting and a minimum of 5 years of professional experience in governmental or financial accounting; U.S. Certified Public Accountant is preferred but not required. Copy of degree/official transcript, police clearance, and professional certification must be attached to the application.

For more information, please contact Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer by e-mail at executive@cda.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 234-7145/6245.

Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at the CDA Office, Wakins Bldg., Gualo Rai or our website at www.cda.gov.mp.

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JOB VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: Oct. 14, 2008 **Closing date: Oct. 27, 2008**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

Five (5) Custodial-l (Saipan Airport)
Two (2) Custodial/Maintenance-l (Rota Airport)

Detailed information on minimum qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA'S Admin Office (2nd Floor) at the Arrival Wing of the Saipan International Ah-port, at CPA Rota Office, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp

All applications must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than **4:30 p.m., October 27,2008**.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ **JOSE K. LIFOIFOI**
Chairman Board of Directors

SALE

Avon Blowout Sale @ Java Joe's on Oct. 25 Saturday 8am. Products available: Perfumes, Cologne, Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Jewelry, accessories, Cosmetics etc. Everything must go!

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Tel. No. (670) 235-5717

20 October 2008

Mr. Michael J. Ada
Director of Banking
Department of Commerce
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Sir:

Please be informed that the company is closing its Remittance business at the close of office hours on October 31, 2008.

Per your instruction, I will be submitting all the remittance report to date together with the Affidavit that there are no outstanding remittances on November 3, 2008.

I will also publish the Notice of Closure in the newspaper within this week and next week.

Thank you for kind help and support to the company. We really appreciate it.

Sincerely,

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General Manager

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Saipan Tribune

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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Opening Date: October 3, 2008
Closing Date: October 31, 2008

Position: Receptionist

Salary: PL 18/01 – $13,052.98 to PL 18/05 ($15,870.10 P/A)
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)

Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 31, 2008, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than October 31, 2008, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to ecfejeran@nmhc.gov.mp NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-003

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **PSS Webmaster Services**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-003" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **October 28, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-003, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: *babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.*

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ **Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.**
Commissioner of Education

/S/ **Juan D. Babauta**
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Request for Proposal
RFP 09-004

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Provision of Technical Support Concerning the Implementation and Evaluation of Prioritized Improvement Activities as well as Consultation on the Development of the CNMI's 2007-2008 IDEA Parts B and C State Performance Plans and Annual Reports.**

Detailed information on the scope of work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3 d floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked **"RFP 09-004"** containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than October 29, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked **"RFP 09-004, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination"**, containing one (1) original and three (3) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively ,questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.**

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid business license.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

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235- NEWS

Hamels, Utley lead Phillies over Rays in opener

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Cole Hamels, Chase Utley and the rest of the Philadelphia Phillies shook off a week's worth of waiting and turned it into a World Series win.

Hamels escaped trouble to win his fourth postseason start, Utley hit a two-run homer in the first inning and the Phillies beat the Tampa Bay Rays 3-2 in the opener Wednesday night.

The worst-to-first Rays flopped in their first game in baseball's ultimate event, managing just five hits.

The Phillies showed little evidence of rust. They'll try to make it two in a row at Tropicana Field when Brett Myers pitches against James Shields in Game 2 Thursday night.

The team that won the opener has captured the Series 63 of 103 times, including 10 of the last 11. But the team with home-field advantage has taken 18 of the last 22 titles.

"It's huge," Phillies closer Brad Lidge said. "You try and downplay it, but obviously you're coming into a place like this, you want to make sure you get the first game, especially because you got your ace on the mound. It's really important to do that."

Hamels, MVP of the NL championship series, improved to 4-0 with a 1.55 ERA this postseason. He had only a pair of 1-2-3 innings, but the composed 24-year-old left-hander allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings.

Ryan Madson pitched a perfect eighth. Lidge worked the ninth for his 47th save in 47 chances this year, silencing the Rays and their cowbell-clanging fans.

Carl Crawford homered for Tampa Bay, but playoff stars B.J. Upton and Evan Longoria went a combined 0-for-8. The Rays didn't get a hit over the final four innings.

Scott Kazmir, selected two picks ahead of Hamels in the first round of the 2002 amateur draft, struggled with his control and gave up three runs, six hits and four walks in six innings.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Brad Lidge, right, is congratulated by Carlos Ruiz after the final out in the ninth inning of Game 1 of the baseball World Series against the Tampa Bay Rays in St. Petersburg, Fla., Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2008.

The Phillies could have romped but went 0-for-13 with runners in scoring position. Their other run even scored on an out, an RBI grounder by Carlos Ruiz.

Philadelphia, seeking the city's first major title since the NBA's 76ers in 1983, had six days off after beating the Los Angeles Dodgers for the NL pennant, while the Rays didn't finish off the Boston Red Sox until Game 7 on Sunday night.

The Phillies also won the opener in 1980 against Kansas City, starting them to their only title since starting play in 1883. Philadelphia also started the Series with wins in 1915 and 1983, but dropped the first game in 1950 and 1993.

After 10 seasons as a doormat, the Rays became the surprise of baseball, toppling the defending champion Red Sox and the Yankees to win the AL East, then beating the White Sox and Boston in the playoffs. The crowd of 40,783 at the Trop wasn't given much to cheer about, though, with Crawford homering in the fourth and Akinori Iwamura hitting an RBI double in the fifth.

Cowbells were sounding and fans were petting the cownose Rays in a tank in right-center during Tropicana Field's first World Series game.

There was a minor league feel, with the public-address announcer hawking season tickets for 2009, an on-field fan contest in left field during the middle of the fifth inning and a trivia contest to give away a video game after the sixth.

Jimmy Rollins, Philadelphia's leadoff batter, flied to right fielder Ben Zobrist, who has made just two regular-season career appearances at the position. He started and played six innings against Texas on May 28 and subbed there for one inning on Sept. 26 against Detroit, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

When Zobrist walked into the clubhouse and saw his name in the lineup, he texted his wife: "Hey, I'm starting."

But then Jayson Werth walked and Utley homered on a 2-2 pitch, sending the ball into the right-field seats and becoming the 34th player to homer in his first Series at-bat. Only 13 of Utley's 33 homers during the regular season were against lefties, and Kazmir allowed just one homer to a left-handed batter in 131 at-bats, with Boston's David Ortiz connecting Sept. 15.

"Fastball, middle of the plate," Utley said. "I was just trying to put the ball into play."

Mitch Williams, an analyst for Comcast SportsNet, started pumping a fist and cheering. The Phillies' last World Series appearance ended when Williams allowed Joe Carter's game-ending homer in Game 6 at Toronto.

Philadelphia had a chance to pad the lead in the second following two walks, but center fielder B.J. Upton made a nifty one-hop throw to the plate on Rollins' fly to short center, and catcher Dioner Navarro applied the tag on Shane Victorino for the inning-ending out.

Tampa Bay loaded the bases with one out in the third on two singles around a walk. But third baseman Pedro Feliz went to his left for an impressive pickup on Upton's grounder and started an inning-ending 5-4-3 double play.

Ruiz hit an RBI grounder in the fourth following Victorino's leadoff single, but Crawford's homer on a hanging breaking ball cut the lead to a 3-1 in the bottom half, giving fans a reason to ring those bells. As he rounded the bases, lights flashed on the three outer catwalks that ring the stadium under the roof of the quirky dome.

Iwamura reached down for an outside 3-2 pitch and drove an opposite-field RBI double to left-center in the fifth, and Upton followed with a foul pop that Ryan Howard reached into the stands to grab - veteran fans at places such as Fenway Park and Yankee Stadium likely would have not allowed the first baseman to make the play.

Carlos Pena reached leading off the sixth when Howard allowed his grounder to pop off his glove and midsection for an error. But Hamels froze Pena with a pickoff throw and he was easily thrown out at second. Rays manager Joe Maddon screamed unsuccessfully for a balk call, maintaining Hamels' foot landed too far toward the plate.

Utley singled with one out in the seventh, stole second and took third on a wild pitch. But J.P. Howell fanned Howard and, after Pat Burrell walked, Grant Balfour struck out Victorino.

Hamels, Utley lead Phillies over Rays in opener

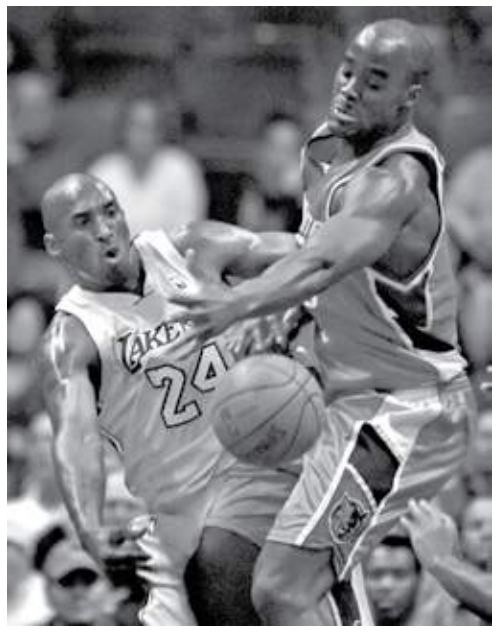
EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Lakers fans can rest easy. Kobe Bryant's right knee was a bit sore Wednesday, but the injury isn't serious and it's possible he won't miss any playing time.

"I'm all right, a little bit better today, a better mood, anyway," Bryant said after sitting out practice due to the hyperextended right knee he suffered Tuesday night in the second quarter of the Lakers' 102-98 preseason victory over the Charlotte Bobcats in San Diego.

Wearing an ice bag on his knee, Bryant said he felt a lot better about his injury Wednesday morning.

"There was no swelling," he said. "At that point, I knew I was OK. Some injuries can go either way. You've got to get lucky. I didn't sleep much, to be honest with you. Just moving it around, seeing if it was all right. These type of injuries kind of sneak up on you."

Bryant, the reigning NBA MVP, was injured under the Lakers' basket when he banged knees with teammate Josh Powell while going for a rebound. He immediately signaled to the bench that he was hurt, and a timeout was called. Bryant then sat at the end of the bench before walking to the locker room, and didn't return for the second half.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, left, slides a pass under Charlotte Bobcats' Emeka Okafor during the first quarter of an NBA preseason game, Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2008 in San Diego.

"I saw the ring flash before my eyes," Bryant said. "I was pretty worried. That's the scariest part, sitting there for five or 10 minutes, seeing what's going to develop."

Powell said he didn't feel anything.

"I didn't see him until I turned around. I turned around, saw him jumping up and down. I thought he rolled his ankle," Powell said.

"It was all his fault," Bryant said with a smile. "We just happened to run into each other."

The 30-year-old Bryant, examined Wednesday by trainer Gary Vitti, won't see a doctor or have an MRI. He said he hopes to play Thursday night when the Lakers face the Bobcats again, this time in Anaheim.

"If I can go, I can go," Bryant said. "It's all good."

Lakers coach Phil Jackson said he wouldn't talk Bryant out of playing.

"We always like players to go out and play," the coach said. "That's what they do. It gives us a chance to go out and function on the floor."

While Jackson said he wasn't too concerned, he added: "Seeing this injury over the course of my career, it's an injury you can't minimize at all. It could have some lingering effects. We'll see how it is tomorrow. We kind of go day-to-day in this business."

NBA BRIEFS

GM poll: Lakers will beat Celtics in NBA finals

NEW YORK (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers will avenge their NBA finals loss to the Boston Celtics, according to a survey of the league's general managers. The executives who responded to the NBA.com GM survey also picked Cleveland's LeBron James for the third straight year as the likely MVP. The results of the seventh annual poll were released Wednesday. The Lakers received 46 percent of the vote, well ahead of the Celtics (19 percent). Boston beat Los Angeles in six games in June for its 17th championship. New Orleans Hornets got 12 percent of the vote and San Antonio 8 percent. It was the first time in five years the GMs didn't tab the Spurs as their preseason pick to win the title. James, who has never won the MVP award, collected 56 percent of the voting in that category. Kobe Bryant, a first-time MVP last season, drew 37 percent and Chris Paul the other 7 percent. Also, Miami's Michael Beasley beat out Greg Oden in the Rookie of the Year voting. Beasley, the No. 2 pick, got 48 percent of the vote, while Oden, getting ready for his NBA debut after sitting out the 2007-08 season following knee surgery, was the pick of 30 percent. Fifty-two percent of the GMs chose Philadelphia as the team that made the best offseason moves, and 67 percent said Elton Brand's move to the 76ers will be the player acquisition with the biggest impact. Full results are posted on NBA.com.

Bulls guard Larry Hughes dislocates shoulder

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Chicago Bulls guard Larry Hughes left Wednesday's game against the Minnesota Timberwolves with a dislocated right shoulder. Hughes left the game with 3:16 to play in the third quarter and did not return after getting his arm caught under Minnesota forward Mike Miller as the two dove for a loose ball. Hughes was leading Chicago with 21 points when he left. Hughes, averaging 13 points per game in the preseason, is fighting for playing time in a crowded backcourt featuring Kirk Hinrich, Ben Gordon and No. 1 draft pick Derrick Rose.

Cowboys Romo won't return before mid-November

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Tony Romo's broken little finger has become a big issue for the struggling Dallas Cowboys. The two-time Pro Bowl quarterback, who wanted to try to play last week despite the broken pinkie on his throwing hand, said Wednesday he now doesn't expect to play again until at least mid-November.

"I don't know when I'll be back," Romo said. "I think definitely the idea now is to get healthy by that bye week."

That means Romo would miss at least two more games: Sunday at Tampa Bay and the following week at the rival New York Giants. The Cowboys (4-3), who have lost three of their last four games, then take a week off before returning Nov. 16 at Washington.

After being limited in his only practice last week, Romo was still listed as the backup quarterback Sunday at St. Louis. He even threw some passes before the game.

While the pain was tolerable, Romo couldn't take direct snaps. And because of the protective splint on his hand, he needed an extra two to three seconds to get a proper grip before making throws.

"I wouldn't have been able to play at any kind of level that would have helped this football team," Romo said.

Brad Johnson will start again for Dallas, this time against the Buccaneers, who had him as their starter when they won the Super Bowl six seasons ago.

Coach Wade Phillips said Romo didn't participate in practice Wednesday. The coach also said Brooks Bollinger, released by Minnesota at the end of training camp and signed the day after the season opener, will be Johnson's backup this week.

AP

Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo responds to questions about his broken pinkie finger while sitting in front of his locker at the Cowboys training facility in Irving, Texas, Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2008.

Romo, who started 32 consecutive regular-season games plus two playoff games, was initially expected to miss a month after he got hurt on the first play of overtime in a loss at Arizona on Oct. 12.

But Romo, who said he hadn't even missed a practice since high school, was throwing some passes three days later and indicated he wanted to try to play. He figured if he could manage the pain, he could play, so trainers tried several different protect wraps for his hand.

"You have to protect the finger enough that you can absorb some kind of hit, but to be able to do that, you mask the ability to throw the football, to grab it, to grip it, and that's been the problem," Romo said.

Romo doesn't even anticipate being able to play in an emergency role this week.

"I could go out there and probably be a below average player and I wouldn't help this team," he said. "And I would be risking it."

So unlike last week, the Cowboys go into this week's game knowing Romo will actually be out a month and isn't even an option. That should benefit Johnson and the rest of the offense in preparations.

"Maybe in the back of somebody's mind they thought (Romo) might come in and save the day," Phillips said.

"Just knowing that going in helps everybody, just the ability to know," Romo said. "It will be better for Brad to get all the O-linemen into his cadence and to do different things of that nature."

Johnson, the 40-year-old backup who made his first start since December 2006, was 6-of-18 for 66 yards and an interception before halftime. He finished 17-of-34 for 234 yards with a late touchdown in the 34-14 loss against the Rams.

Phillips acknowledged Wednesday that had the Cowboys needed another quarterback at St. Louis, Bollinger would have played instead of Romo.

When he first got hurt, Romo wasn't sure it was even possible to play with the broken finger. He decided to give it a shot after talking to some other quarterbacks, including Brett Favre. But then Romo finally figured out it involved more than bearing the pain.

"As the week progressed I started to gain a little more confidence in feeling that I could actually do it," Romo said. "Once I couldn't, it would not have been a smart decision. Any type of dog, a linebacker coming, I would have had to eat the ball every time and try to protect my hand."

NFL BRIEFS

Favre denies giving Lions any info to use vs. Pack

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—Brett Favre insists he's no Benedict Brett. The New York Jets quarterback acknowledged Wednesday that he spoke to former Detroit president Matt Millen a few weeks ago, but denied reports he called Millen and gave him and Lions coaches information they could use in a game against the Green Bay Packers. Favre, who had a bitter split with the Packers in the offseason, said Millen called to invite him to go hunting. The friends then briefly talked about football. "I didn't give him any game planning," Favre said. "I haven't been in that offense in over a year. I don't know what else to tell you. It was pretty simple." Favre also said Dallas quarterback Tony Romo called him last week—not the other way around—to ask for suggestions on playing through injuries. "Next thing I know, I'm calling everyone in the league, giving out secrets," Favre said. "I'm willing to help, but it's awful ridiculous." Favre spent nearly 15 minutes answering questions about the Foxsports.com report Sunday that said he called the Lions before their Sept. 14 game against the Packers. The report said Favre spent more than an hour giving Millen and Lions coaches information on nuances of the offense he used to run. Green Bay won the game 48-25.

Browns TE Winslow appeals suspension over comments

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Pro Bowl tight end Kellen Winslow appealed his one-game suspension for critical comments he made about the Cleveland Browns' handling of his hospitalization with a staph infection, the latest development in a bizarre back-and-forth squabble. Winslow was suspended without pay by general manager Phil Savage on Tuesday for comments and behavior disparaging to the organization. Winslow was critical of Savage and said he only came forward to reveal he had staph—for the second time—out of concern for his teammates' health. Denise White, a publicist with EAG Sports Management, said Winslow appealed the suspension and filed the appropriate paperwork with the NFL Players Association.

Mike Holmgren tries to defuse rumors about 49ers

RENTON, Wash. (AP)—So much for Mike Holmgren's quiet motorcycle ride into that self-described "sabbatical" next year. The exiting coach of the skidding Seattle Seahawks had a chance on Wednesday to slam the door on rumors he is a prime candidate to take over his hometown San Francisco 49ers in 2009. Instead, he left it partially open. "When I was at Lincoln High School, and for years, that was my dream job. And it never quite came to fruition," Holmgren said to members of the San Francisco media in a conference call. "But times change and right now, I think it's been stated ... for the 27th time: the plan for me and Kath (wife Kathy) is to take a year off after this time in Seattle. We've been here 10 years, and we love it here, and that's the plan. "While I'm flattered—we have a lot of friends in the Bay Area—that's the plan right now."

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DELIVERY

Evenflow starts title defense in Rocball

MARK RABAGO

The 2008-2009 World Organized Rocball Community League opens tomorrow at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Evenflow will begin its title defense in the 2008-2009 World Organized Rocball Community League tomorrow when it collides with the Ghasias Brothers at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Evenflow won its best-of-five title series with No-Use, coming back from a 0-2 deficit.

The Ghasias Brothers are also making a comeback in the Rocball league after missing in action in the past four years.

Evenflow and the Ghasias Brothers will duel in the first game of the season at 1pm. Five more matches are set for the opening day of the league.

In the second game at 2pm, the Naturals will take on Uraiwak. The third game at 3pm will have the Okies challenging No-Mercy, while the Soul Rebels will face Section A. The last two games of the day will feature the FSM Rebels meeting the Fanians at 5pm, and the Prims colliding with the Islanders at 6pm.

Only four teams—Evenflow, Naturals, Islands, and No-Mercy—from last year's league are returning this season.

Last year, the league drew 18 teams and 140 players. The list include No-Use, Jammers, Malat, NG Force, Chuukese Warriors, Sonics, 670, By Luck, Yamat, Team Seven, Dota All-Stars, Try-Out, and Monota.

From 18 teams, the league was down to 10 eliminating squads which absorbed three losses in the preliminaries. From 10, four teams were left standing to battle for the two finals ticket.

No-Use swept No-Mercy in the best-of-three semis series to take the first finals berth, while Evenflow secured the last finals slot after beating Try-Out, 2-1

This season, players from the defunct 14 squads either joined new teams or formed their own squads, but the league will basically have a mixed of old and new players.

James Feger is coordinating the league and will be officiating the games with volunteer umpires.

Feger is the creator of the Rocball, which is an indigenous sport on the island.

Rocball combines the rules of volleyball and soccer. It is played in a slightly modified standard volleyball court with an overhead net bisecting team courts and a 6- x 12-foot soccer type goal located 10 feet behind each court. The sport uses a scoring system where a team could win a game by total amount of points scored using a set system of play.

For more information on the league, contact Feger at 288-8722.

Easy win for San Miguel

MANILA, Philippines—San Miguel Beer has been playing well and could only get better.

For the Beermen have already been on a hot run even as coach Siot Tanquingcen insists they still have to work on many things.

The Beermen made it four in a row with their most lopsided win thus far in the season—a 118-89 walloping of the badly crippled Barangay Ginebra Kings at the Araneta Coliseum Wednesday night.

Seven Beermen, led by Lordy Tugade with 21, put in double-digit outputs as San Miguel kept their run going and firmed up their hold of second place in the KFC PBA Philippine Cup with a 4-1 win-loss record.

Alaska Milk is in the lead with a clean 4-0 mark.

"We really still have to work on many things. What's good for the team is that they work with their hearts out to achieve a challenge," said Tanquingcen. "Two games back, we're last in rebounding. We made that as our challenge and now we're already the best rebounding team."

Rebounding was only one of many aspects of the game where the Beermen beat the Kings soundly.

San Miguel pummeled Barangay Ginebra from the start and went on to deal the Kings their worst defeat since a 124-90 loss to Air21 in Game 2 of the recent 2008 Fiesta Conference Finals last August 8.

"They're struggling with a short-handed lineup. I don't expect the same game when we face them again in the next round," said Tanquingcen of the Kings missing the services of injured players Mark Caguioa, Billy Mamaril and Rafi Reavis.

Ronald Tubid was also out, serving a game suspension for two flagrant fouls in their last game against Red Bull.

Johnny Abarrientos returned from semi-retirement, putting in eight points and two assists for the Kings.

The Beermen started strong with Tugade, Dorian Pena, Jay Washington, Dondon Hontiveros and Jonas Villanueva, pulling away early at 29-13 with a 50-percent shooting in the first quarter.

They took the half at 49-32 and enjoyed a lead as big as 31 before closing out the rout.

"It's a good sign the team keeps on improving. There are certain things we don't want to be contented. The idea is to keep improving each game," said Tanquingcen.

Tugade hit five triples to lead the Beermen in scoring.

San Miguel 118 – Tugade 21, Bono 16, Gonzales 13, Washington 12, Calaguio 12, Hontiveros 12, Pena 11, Villanueva 7, Custodio 6, Pennisi 4, Pingris 2, Racela 2.

Ginebra 89 – Helterbrand 15, Artadi 12, Cabatu 11, Menk 10, Abarrientos 8, Pacana 7, Wilson 6, Salvacion 6, Crisano 6, Escalona 4, Holper 4.

Quarterscores: 29-13, 49-32, 80-55, 115-89. ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

GTC

From Page 44

Maelyn Maratita, and Devanie Nicole Camacho.

Calling the shots for Whispering Palms/Brilliant Star is Davis' teammate in the CNMI Women's National Team, Brenda Schultz.

Whispering Palms/Brilliant Star is composed of Lucy Ha, Nishta Thomas, Nava Khorram, Kristina Folta, Gabriele Race, Phalai Frink, Nicole Arenovski, Megan Yost, and Neghar Rastguiy.

Schultz is also the coach of the boys' team of Whispering Palms/Brilliant Star' and her wards foiled a GTC sweep after nailing a 2-1 victory.

Whispering Palms/Brilliant Star made the first goal in the game with Harrison Hill on the connecting end, chasing the ball after a Kenyon Schultz's miss in the first half.

Whispering Palms/Brilliant Star had several chances to score more goals in the first half with Danny and John Auther attacking the GTC defense, but the Auther siblings missed their targets.

GTC also had many opportunities to score goals, but Whispering Palms/Brilliant Star goalie Colin Ramsey had a couple of saves, before folding up in the closing minutes if the first half allowing the host to tie the game.

Whispering Palms/Brilliant Star escaped with a win after Kennedy Izuka made a header on a Kenyon Shultz's assist in the last 30 seconds of the match.

In other results, San Antonio Elementary School defeated Oleai Elementary School, 3-2, in the girls division, while the Octopus and the Turtles had a 1-1 draw in the boys division.

The San Antonio-Oleai games were played in the former's home field.

Other results from Wednesday's games were unavailable at press time.

William S. Reyes Elementary School dueled Dandan Elementary School A at the San Vicente Elementary School Field, while Tanapag Elementary School hosted Saipan International School.

The inaugural U12 league has 17 teams competing for the championship. The participating teams are divided into two divisions.

Northern Group is composed of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, Whispering Palms, Eucon, Saipan International School, and Tanapag Elementary School.

The Southern Group has Dandan Elementary School A and B, Saipan Community School, William S. Reyes School, Koblerville Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, San Antonio Elementary School, and Oleai Elementary School.

Games in the U12 league are played every Wednesday with the girls division match starting at 3:15pm. Game time for the boys division is at 4pm.

The U12 league will have a single round-robin format in the regular season with the top two teams in each division advancing to the playoffs.

NMA

From Page 44

Country Championship is set for Nov. 15 with the venue to be announced later.

In the championship, Marianas High School is out to defend its title in the 18-and-under division The Dolphins will be challenged by Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School.

Tinian is the defending champion in the elementary division, while Hopwood claimed the most individual awards in the middle school division.

For more information on the cross country series, contact Rangamar at 664-2502.

EAFF

From Page 44

ence, Vision Asia program. Associate Membership with AFC is the next step to FIFA acceptance for the CNMI and NMIFA.

The following countries are East Asian Football Federation members: China, Japan, Korea Republic, DPR Korea, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, Macau, Mongolia, Guam and the CNMI. ***(NMIFA)***

SBA

From Page 44

The next three players in the list of the Magic Four, with their total points in parenthesis, are Richard P. Leong (1,313), Dannie Robles (1,216), and Robert Talavera (1,188).

Lower ranked bowlers could still qualify, however, if the higher ranked players are not available or could not comply with the selection criteria.

SBA said that if any of the Top 10 bowlers, based on the BRS, is not available to complete a team, or any of the selected bowler quit the team by Oct. 31, SBA will reserve the right to offer any slot for the team to any SBA member willing to comply with all the requirements.

Interested players may contact Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 for more information about the application procedures and qualification system.

Rounding out the Top 10 players in the SBA list as of Sept. 30 are Simon Manacop (1,099), Raymond Angeles (1,076), Raul Dumapit (1,001), Kitz Barja (793), Percy Omechelang (785), and Paul Pangelinan (645).

Saipan is a member city of the AIBC. Each member city could send two teams, four men, and four ladies to the annual tournament that gathers together the best players in the region representing their respective cities.

SBA said a member city might also invite another city from the same country as a guest team. The guest team may send the same number of delegation.

However, SBA said it would not pay all the expenses in regard to the conduct of the tournament.

It said that selected bowlers must be willing to shoulder any funding shortfall.

SBA said if a group wants to represent a guest city, such group would be responsible for all the expenses such as guest member fee, tournament fee, airfare, hotel accommodation, and uniforms.

The estimated cost per bowler is $1,600, which includes $900 for roundtrip airline ticket, $50 per day for hotel accommodations, and membership and other tournament fees.

The SBA estimated a total cost of $16,000 for a 10-person delegation. This accounts for a range of $800 to $1,000 contribution per participant.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

PBA STANDINGS

Alaska	4	0	1.000
San Miguel	4	1	0.800
Sta. Lucia	3	1	0.750
Talk N Text	2	2	0.500
Rain or Shine	2	2	0.500
Ginebra	2	2	0.500
Purefoods	1	3	0.250
Red Bull	1	3	0.250
Air21	1	3	0.250
Coca-Cola	1	4	0.200

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings (Revised)

Junior Nationals	8	0
Sixers	7	1
Rollers I	5	3
G-Stars	5	3
Kontenders	3	5
Suns	3	5
Saints	2	6
Sonics	2	6

Saipan World Series thoughts

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
and NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTERS

Rays or Phillies? While Saipan is thousands of miles away from Tampa Bay/St. Petersberg or Philadelphia, the island's passion remains baseball. And what better way to celebrate America's pastime than by picking the brains of local baseball buffs about the 2008 World Series. Let the prognosticating begin!

"Tampa Bay Rays in five games. I go for the underdogs and the team that's hungrier for the title. It's their first time to be in the World Series and they have a bunch of young guys who are hungrier for a title and hoping to prove their worth on the team."

Mike Borja
SLLB incoming president

"Phillies in seven games. It has something to do with the hunger factor, the Phillies' last trip to the World Series was in 1993. Plus, the Phillies have plenty of veteran players who are used to tough matches, unlike the Tampa Bay Rays who have a rookie-laden roster."

Jon Perez
Former Saipan Tribune sports reporter

"Tampa Bay in a close series. The Phillies are heavily favored in the series having players like Ryan Howard. But I have to give it to the Rays because nobody expected them to go to the World Series as most of their players are young, but they beat the odds and if the pitching and hitting are there, just like what they did against the Red Sox, they have a good chance for their first World Series title."

Jess Wabol
Little League coach and champion golfer

"I predict Tampa Bay will defeat Philadelphia in seven games. Why? Because they have the magic. Nobody can explain how magic works, only that it works."

Bob Coldeen
Baseball book author and KSPN news director

"I say Phillies in seven, because of their dynamic offense and their balance and the power arms of their bullpen.

Joey dela Cruz
Baseball coach, homerun derby champion

"Phillies in five. I've been a Phillies fan ever since. It's a great organization with great players. The manager (Charlie Manuel) almost always make good decisions and has great game plans. Defensively and offensively, they are very good.

James Ada
CNMI District Administrator

"I'll go for the Devil Rays. My prediction is they will win it in Game 6. There will be no sweep of course. I can predict them to win the series because they have already beaten the two strongest teams including the Red Sox. They have a young pitcher who is good."

Brian Adelbai
Belau Amateur Softball Association coordinator

"The Devil Rays will win it in seven games. They're a young team. It's their first time to make it to the World Series. They're the hungrier team."

Derron Flores
Junior Jets manager

"Tampa Bay will win it. My prediction is 4-3 for the Devil Rays. They are very young. They beat the Red Sox. That's it."

Kim Jae Young
SML strikeout king

"Tampa Bay will take it in six games. Upton will be the MVP of the series. They are a young team. They have the field advantage. They faced a lot of pressure and they were able to beat the Red Sox. They seem to be fearless."

Bob O'Connor
O'Conner, Berman, Dutts & Baner Law Firm

Phillies will have the edge. They will take it in Game 6. I will give Tampa Bay two wins and four for the Phillies. They are a well-rounded team. They have good defense. They are pitching very good and they are playing with a balance lineup. They really have the advantage."

Vinnie Sablan
Senior Jets manager

2008 Rotary caging playoffs schedule reset

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Citing errors in the final team standings, organizers of the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League decided to reschedule the start of the playoffs in the 18-and-under caging to Monday.

Games in the playoff round were supposed to begin last night with the CNMI Junior Nationals facing the Chalan Kanoa Saints in the first match, and the San Antonio Sixers meeting the Kontenders.

The Junior Nationals finished on top of the nine-team field with their clean 8-0 record and was paired with the last seeded team in the playoffs.

But Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands president Elias Rangamar said there were corrections in the final standings thus changes in the playoffs pairings should be made.

"We apologize for the mistakes and for the inconvenience the changes had caused the teams. To settle everything, we decided to start the playoffs on Monday," Rangamar said.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Sixers' Matt Duenas goes for a reverse layup against the Rollers I's Jomar Danas during their game in the regular season of the Rotary caging. The playoff round in the 18-and-under tournament was moved to Monday.

The Junior Nationals and the Sixers will still be the top two seeded teams, but will be facing new foes.

Instead of the Chalan Kanoa Saints, the Junior Nationals will be paired with the Southern Sonics for the Game 1 in the playoffs on Monday at 5:30pm.

The Saints, who placed eighth in the earlier final standings released by organizers, moved up to seventh place and will be squaring off with the No. 2-ranked Sixers in Game 2, also on Monday (Oct. 27) at 7pm.

The Rollers I and the G-Stars finished with identical 5-3 records, but the former got to keep the No. 3 spot after beating the latter in the regular season.

The Rollers I will be paired with the Suns, who went down from fifth to sixth place. The Suns-Rollers I tiff is set for Game 3 on Tuesday (Oct. 28) at 5:30pm.

The G-Stars will play in Game 4 on Thursday (Oct. 30) against the Kontenders, who moved up from seventh to fifth place. The Kontenders and the Suns had identical 3-5 records in the regular season, but the former won in the tiebreak, having beaten the latter in the elimination round.

The playoffs will have a single-elimination format with the winner of Games 1 and 4 dueling for the first finals seat on Nov. 3 at 5:30pm, and the victor of the Games 3 and 4 battling for the second finals berth at 7pm.

The title and consolation matches will be played on Nov. 4. The battle for third place is set for 5:30pm, while the championship game is scheduled for 7pm.

RGA Nov. qualifier Sunday; Memorial Classic Nov. 8

Refaluwasch Golf Association will be holding the November Ace qualifying tournament this Sunday at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Check-in time is at 11am, while tee time is at 12pm with only the first 16 players to register allowed to compete in the qualifier.

Winner of this weekend's tournament gets to keep the November Ace title if his score is unbeaten in RGA's next event for the month.

RGA tournament director Jess Wabol is reminding monthly Ace winners who have yet to meet the required number of tournaments to qualify for the club championship to join this weekend's qualifier and the remaining events in the RGA calendar for 2008.

Excluding this weekend's tournament, RGA will have two more qualifying tournaments and one special event, which is the Inaugural Memorial Classic.

The Memorial Classic is set for Nov. 8 at the Marianas Country Club and will be held in honor of RGA departed members Plas Tagabuel, Sid K. Peter, and Tony Taitano.

Next month's tournament is open to non-RGA members. Entrance fee is $100

For more information about RGA and the rest of its events in the 2008 calendar, contact Wabol at 233-3673 or RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

D'Pirates score a stunner over Primo's in 8-ball

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The visiting D'Pirates Huwa posted a stunner over pacesetter Primo's Home Boys, 3-1, last Tuesday night in the Obyan Division of the Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

D'Pirates, composed of Ray Basa, Ray Takai, Ed Suzuki, John Camacho and Pat Cepeda, lost the first frame, 37-38, before charging back with 42-36 and 38-37 wins in the next two frames to take the game away with a total round victory of 117-111.

With the win, D'Pirates are now 21-19 and in third place.

Despite the loss, the Home Boys were still in the lead with 27-13.

In another exciting match, the Perfect Spotters continued its gradual climb to the top as they are now in second place with a 24-16 win-loss card.

This was after the Perfect Spotters won over VFW Warriors, 3-1. The team of Serge Tibudan, Eric Piol, Johnny Dugos, Primo Ferrera, and Mario Jumalon, scored rounds of 46, 34, and 41 for a total of 121.

The Warriors were relegated to the bottom of the standings with 13-27. The team of Raena Bermudes, Fred Camacho, Tawny Barcinas, Nelson Pagaduan, and Shiela Muna had rounds of 27, 43, 39 for a total of 109.

In the other game of the Obyan Division, Coral Reef Barracuda moved to fifth place by beating fourth-running USSP Fotten Palau, 3-1.

The Barracudas are now 15-25 while Fotten Palau still has a better record of 20-20.

The Barracudas, composed of Nizer Masayos, Oscar Sablan, Tom Tebuteb, John Peter, and Leo Sablan, posted rounds of 39, 39, and 45 for a total of 123.

Fotten Palau had rounds of 46, 36, 33 for 114.

In the Agingan Division, the PTI Voyagers won anew over USSP Wat Ever, 3-1, to keep its hold of the lead with 32-8. Wat Ever is in fourth with 13-27.

SaipanCell Hustlers also came up with another 3-1 win against Coral Reef Shark Attack.

The Hustlers were in second place with 29-11, while Shark Attack dropped to sixth place with an 11-29 record.

Third-running Islander Rent A Car halved points with fifth-ranked Godfather's Rock Steady, 2-2.

Islander had a 23-17 record while Rock Steady was groping form with 12-28.

Saipan World Series thoughts

Rays or Phillies? While Saipan is thousands of miles away from Tampa Bay/St. Petersberg or Philadelphia, the island's passion remains baseball. And what better way to celebrate America's pastime than by picking the brains of local baseball buffs about the 2008 World Series. Let the prognosticating begin! 43

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Hamels, Utley lead Phillies over Ray in opener

Cole Hamels, Chase Utley and the rest of the Philadelphia Phillies shook off a week's worth of waiting and turned it into a World Series win. 40

EAFF grants NMIFA full membership

The executive committee for the East Asian Football Federation has granted full membership to the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association. The decision was made during the organization's 4th Congress in September.

EAFF president Xie Yalong presided over the meeting in conjunction with general secretary Takeo Okada. At the meeting, members of the EAFF adopted and unanimously granted a motion to formally accept NMIFA as the 10th member nation.

NMIFA president and EAFF executive committee member Jerry Tan and NMIFA vice president Sue Knecht were on hand to accept the nomination as well as its responsibilities.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMIFA president Jerry Tan and vice president Sue Knecht are seen here with the EAFF congress in Tokyo on Sept. 30, 2008.

With the new status comes the opportunity for the NMIFA to compete in international play, gain support by means of coaching, attend coaching clinics, participate in referee development, receive equipment and organizational development funding. The membership also allows for the NMIFA to oversee the development of the sport of football within the CNMI as well as represent the CNMI in several annual and bi-annual EAFF tournaments.

"The road to this membership has been three years in the making and has required many long hours of volunteerism and commitment from past and current NMIFA board and executive committee members," said Tan. "We could not have done this without the dedicated support of many volunteers in our community."

NMIFA is also currently participating as the 13th nation to follow the Asian Football Confer-

See EAFF on Page 42

GTC, Whispering Palms/ Brilliant Star split games

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players and coaches of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and Whispering Palms/Brilliant Star pose for a group photo after their game in the U12 league Wednesday at the GTC Field. Inset, Whispering Palms/Brilliant Star's John Auther, left, dribbles past a GTC defender.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Gregorio T. Camacho and Whispering Palms/Brilliant Star debuted in the Inaugural 2008 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League and split their games Wednesday at the GTC Field in San Roque.

The girls' team of the GTC Deer played first and defeated the combined team of Whispering Palms and Brilliant Star, 1-0.

Clea San Nicolas scored the lone game in the match in the first half.

The two teams played in two halves with each half lasting for 20 minutes.

GTC is coached by CNMI Women's National team member Lindsay Davis and the Deer has 11 players on its roster.

Joining San Nicolas on the team are Alaysia Wallace, Alexa San Nicolas, Alice Agulto, Ann Ravell, Brittany Luzama, Carmanda Camacho, Chelsea Leskosek, Elizabeth Basa,

See GTC on Page 42

NMA kicks off cross country series tomorrow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Athletics Cross Country Series will begin tomorrow with participants racing in two courses at the CPA Airport Field.

NMA official Elias Rangamar said runners in the 7-and-under, 9-and-under, and 11-and-under age groups will race in the 1,500m course, while participants in the 14-and-under and 18-and-under divisions will take the longer 5,000m course.

The Top 3 placers in each age group will receive medals, while trophies will be awarded to the Top 3 schools.

A school will qualify in the team awards if it will field at least five runners in the races. Points will be awarded to each runner to determine the rankings of schools. The first finisher will get a point, two for second, three for third, four for fourth, five for fifth, and so on. The school with the lowest points wins the division. In case of a tie, the school with a sixth finisher wins the tiebreak.

NMA is reminding participants that they will not be allowed to run barefoot for safety purposes. In NMA's past tournament held at the rubberized Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility, some runners ran barefoot.

The association had also set guidelines for this weekend's races.

Runners who will have two false starts will be disqualified. Interfering with another runner and failing to complete the course define by legal marking system will also result to disqualifications.

Registration for the first part of the cross country series will start at 3pm, while races will begin at 4pm.

Participants in the 7-and-under, 9-and-under, and 11-and-under age group will race first and will be followed by runners in the 14-and-under and 18-and-under divisions.

The second leg of the cross country series is scheduled for Nov. 8, also at the Airport Field, while the NMA Cross

See NMA on Page 42

SBA to send 8 bowlers to Macau Asian Intercity

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Saipan Bowling Association announced this week that it would be sending eight players to the 22nd Asian Intercity Bowling Championships to be held in Macau, China from Nov. 28 to Dec. 6.

Zapanta

A player must be an SBA member to qualify for the team and the selection process must be based on the SBA Bowler Ranking System.

The Top 4 bowlers based on the rankings as of Sept. 30, 2008 would make it to Team Saipan.

Based on the SBA's BRS, Raymond Zapanta is leading in total points with 1,490, including 180 points in the Philippine Bowling Association Bowler of the Year.

He also compiled 100 points in the January edition of the King of the Lanes, 100 in February 45 in July, and 45 in August.

He had also 75 in the SBC Saturday League (Jan. 5), 60 in the CBC-Thursday League (Feb. 21), 60 in the SBC Monday League (March 3), 75 in the CBC Friday League (March 14), 70 in the SBC Wednesday league (Aug. 13), 70 in the SBC Monday League (Aug. 18), and 60 in the CBC Friday League (Sept. 12).

Zapanta did not compete in annual Philippine Bowling Association Classified and the September edition of the King of the lanes.

See SBA on Page 42